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Way clear for declaration of ceasefire

Iran agrees to direct talks

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 7. (Reuters): Iran agreed today to direct talks with Iraq on ending the Gulf war apparently clearing the way for a ceasefire which Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said could be announced tomorrow or Tuesday.

Iran's decision followed a statement yesterday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that Iraq would accept direct talks after a truce. Up until then Iraq had insisted that peace talks take place before a ceasefire.

The two developments were major breakthroughs in peace negotiations which after being stalled for two weeks, leaped forward in a weekend of intense activity at the United Nations.

Effect

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati announced his country's agreement to direct talks following a ceasefire after one of several meetings with Perez de Cuellar.

Immediately before today's key meeting at which Iran announced its agreement, the secretary-general had told reporters

that a ceasefire could go into effect in two weeks if he could get Iran and Iraq to agree on the issue of face-to-face talks.

Asked when an announcement of a ceasefire might be made, he replied: "It could be either tomorrow or day after tomorrow if there is agreement from both sides."

While hectic diplomatic activity went on at UN headquarters in New York, there was a lull in fighting as both sides anticipated a truce in an eight-year war which has claimed more than a million lives.

Iran and Iraq reported only relatively minor clashes on the weekend.

Positive

The breakthrough was warmly welcomed by the US State Department.

"We felt the Iraqi move was a positive step. It seemed to have moved things along. And obviously things are playing out. It's up to the secretary-general to work out the details, and we fully support his efforts," a State Department spokesman said.

But a US Defence Department spokesman cautioned that the



Perez de Cuellar

a year ago.

For the past two weeks the talks had inched forward but when Iraq announced it was no longer insisting on direct talks before a ceasefire, Perez de Cuellar cut short a weekend break to rush back to UN headquarters yesterday.

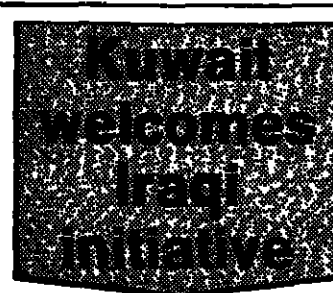
Velayati told reporters, who have been camped outside the UN for the past two days, that the level of talks and when and where they take place will be decided by the secretary-general.

Perez de Cuellar has estimated about 250 UN observers will be needed to supervise a ceasefire.

He has already received a report on the mechanics of a ceasefire from a UN military team which visited the two countries in July.

The New York Times said yesterday that 24 of 30 countries asked to take part in a peacekeeping force had agreed. The paper said the countries included Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Ghana, Fiji, Australia, Japan, Hungary and Turkey.

A UN spokesman announced the Security Council would hold private consultations later in the day.



Kuwait welcomes Iraq's acceptance of a ceasefire with Iran to be followed by direct peace talks, on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said yesterday that Kuwait praises the Iraqi move, made by President Saddam Hussein on Saturday and, wishes to see peace prevail in the entire Arabian Gulf region.

"Kuwait while praising this honourable initiative originating from a spirit of responsibility, considers the move as an approach to the peace process and to rebuild bridges of trust among the peoples of the region to restore peace on the basis of Islamic fraternity and good neighbourliness," said a statement issued after the cabinet meeting.

The statement also praised the peace-making efforts of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and called on the permanent members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibility towards restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Rashed said Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahamd briefed the cabinet on last week's meetings in Baghdad of an Arab League committee assigned to follow up developments of the Iran-Iraq war.

Outcome

The cabinet highly appreciated the outcome of the visit to the US by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, saying the trip enhanced Kuwait's international stature.

Rashed said the cabinet expressed belief that the visit had been of help to Kuwaiti and Arab interests.

During the official visit last month, Sheikh Saad had talks with US President Reagan, Vice-President George Bush and other top American officials.

Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa welcomed Iraq's "response to the efforts of the UN secretary-general to implement Security Council Resolution 598."

Palestinians may declare independence

Hussein will recognise government-in-exile

AMMAN, Aug 7. (Agencies): King Hussein announced today that he would extend full recognition to a proposed Palestinian government-in-exile upon its formation.

"Yes, I would recognise it immediately," the King told a group of foreign reporters without hesitation, just over a week after he began severing links with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO has been considering forming a government-in-exile to fill the vacuum left by Hussein's decision, but no decision has been announced so far.

Palestinian sources said the call for independence and for the establishment of a government-in-exile could be adopted in the next few weeks.

The King has scrapped a \$1.3-billion development plan for Israeli-occupied territories, laid off or retired 21,200 Jordanian employees there and abolished the Territories Ministry.

Hussein said that Palestinians in the West Bank would no longer be entitled to Jordanian citizenship but could continue to get Jordanian passports.

Asked if passports issued to West Bank residents would give Jordanian citizenship, the King said: "No, they will just be travel documents."

Withdrawal

Jordan would not withdraw existing passports from the West Bank's 850,000 residents after its decision to break ties with the territory, he said.

"Passports will remain until such time as a Palestinian state is created. Then obviously Palestinians can have their own passports representing them as citizens of that state," he said.

Describing the bridges across



King Hussein

the Jordan River as a lifeline for people in the occupied territories, the King said: "We have no intention of closing those bridges, nor has it crossed our minds to think of doing that."

Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was final. "We are not playing at tactics. Our decision is a decision we have taken and we will adhere to it," he said.

"Jordan doesn't have sovereignty over the West Bank. It belongs to the Palestinian people," the King declared.

Solution

He ruled out any revival of the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend any international Middle East peace conference.

"That is behind us now," he said. "As far as we are concerned, that option does not exist."

The King reiterated his belief that the PLO should be a "prime party" to any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said his decision, announced on July 31, to end 38 years of unity with the West Bank responded to repeated Palestinian and Arab demands.

It was in line with the 1974 Arab League summit in Rabat, which named the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, and with the 1982 Pz summit, which called for an independent Palestinian state.

King Hussein said no further measures were envisaged at present. "Basically, we have covered all the areas that required attention," he said.

PLO officials say it will send a delegation led by executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas to Amman, probably on Thursday, to discuss Hussein's historic policy switch.

Visit

Referring to the delegation, the King said: "We have nothing to say to the PLO. We will hear what they have to say to us."

He said the PLO would be granted diplomatic status in Jordan and its mission would be like that of any other embassy.

Hussein will fly to Syria tomorrow for a brief working visit and talks with President Hafez Al Assad, informed sources told KUNA this evening.

The former Territories' Minister Marwan Daud said that Jordan will retain some social, economic and legal links with the West Bank.

King Hussein transferred the remaining functions of the

Soviet warning

MOSCOW, Aug 7. (Reuters): The Soviet Union and Afghanistan said today they would take action unless Pakistan halted what they said were "crude violations" of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan.

V.P. Singh and Rama Rao to head alliance

Indian opposition fails to resolve leadership issue

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (UPI): Former Finance Minister V.P. Singh and N.T. Rama Rao, the film star-turned-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state today were chosen to head an opposition alliance against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the next general elections.

"The aspiration of the people is for the closer co-operation of the opposition parties," said Singh, who was expelled from the Congress (I) Party in June 1987 for criticising Rajiv's handling of corruption allegations.

However, the selection of both Singh and Rao appeared to indicate that senior members of the seven-party national front were unable to resolve differences

over the alliance's leadership and were forced to compromise.

The divisions over leadership and other questions have led many observers to question whether the coalition will survive to contest general elections that must be held before the end of next year.

Oppose

The alliance would be the first to oppose the Congress (I) Party in nationwide polls since a coalition led by the rightist Janata Party defeated it in 1977. However, the Janata-led government collapsed from infighting after 18 months in power.

Singh, who won an important test of strength over the Congress (I) Party in a June parliamentary by-election, was selected as

"convenor" of the national front and the flamboyant Rao, who parlayed his success in playing Hindu gods in films into a political career, was chosen as its chairman.

"Here is the alternative to the Congress (I)," said Rao introducing his allies at a press conference today, "dedicated to uplifting the glory and uprooting the corruption of India."

Leaders of the seven opposition groups said the front, to be formally inaugurated on Sept 16, would soon announce a 60-point platform.

The new alliance brings together seven parties that have widely diverse bases of support, but are largely moderate in their views.

People waiting for bus shot at

By Lima Al Khalafawi

A GROUP of people waiting at a bus stop in the Shuwaikh area were shot at on Saturday night by young men driving their car at high speed.

The incident, which took place at around 10.00 pm was reported to the Shuwaikh Industrial police station.

Bystanders were stunned by the shooting. The car took a sharp turn towards the Khaldiya area seconds later.

One of the injured, a journalist, had an air gun pellet lodged in his arm.

He told the Arab Times that he was shocked by the shooting and to see blood flowing from his arm. He rushed to the Sabah Hospital where the pellet was removed.

He added that another bystander said a pellet pierced through his dishdasha.

Brunei job offers false

By Jadranka Porter

THE BRUNEI embassy in Kuwait has dismissed as a scam a notice circulating in the country inviting applications and quoting too-good-to-be-true salaries for jobs in Brunei.

The embassy's consular office, which issues visas for Brunei, has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries about jobs and visas for Brunei. The office instructed all the inquirers to contact the Director of Immigration in Bandar Sereh Begawan, the capital of Brunei.

"We get about a dozen calls a day and they ring us up at all hours" said the British Consul, Larry Banks.

"This is the third year in a row that such information has been circulated. I would say this is a false notice," said Banks.

Workers

The notice, entitled employment notification, says that the British embassy has announced that Brunei needs 70,000 to 100,000 construction workers—both Muslims and non-Muslims of various trades.

"We would never make such an announcement. It is inconceivable," Banks said. He said his office is authorised to issue visas "within certain clearly defined limits set by the government of Brunei."

The notice does not say where

Fate of Americans linked to Gulf war

Some hostages in Iranian embassy

BEIRUT, Aug 7. (Agencies): Some of the 16 foreign hostages held by extremist groups in Lebanon are being housed in the heavily fortified Iranian embassy in West Beirut, a newspaper said today.

The Al Diyar newspaper, quoting an unnamed Syrian official, also said the fate of the hostages, including nine Americans, may depend on the outcome of the Iran-Iraq war. Hostages were held under the control of Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Hossain Sheikholslam, the newspaper said.

Some of the hostages have been in captivity for more than four years, and a variety of Muslim fundamentalist groups have claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

Secure

The alleged abductors have demanded, among other things, that the United States pressure the Israeli government to withdraw its forces from a buffer zone in southern Lebanon and use its influence to secure the release of Arab prisoners incarcerated in Israel and elsewhere.

The Syrian source said the 16 captives were being kept in three locations: a hideout in Beirut's southern suburbs, the Iranian embassy in west Beirut, and the "Sheikh Abdullah Barracks" of the Hezbollah group near Baalbeck, 52 miles (84 km) northeast

of Beirut.

The walled Iranian embassy in Beirut's Ba'ir Hassan district is heavily guarded by Lebanese Shi'ite gunmen and Iranian military personnel armed with rockets and automatic weapons.

The source told Al Diyar that Terry Waite, the hostage negotiator and Archbishop of Canterbury special envoy who was kidnapped on Jan. 20, 1987 in west Beirut, was being held at the fortified Hezbollah barracks near Baalbeck.

Improved

He said all the captives were being held by a branch of the Hezbollah "linked directly" to Iran, and said Sheikholslam was personally involved in deciding where the captives would stay. Sheikholslam had personally directed the transfer of some of the hostages from one place to another in cars registered to the Iranian embassy, the source said.

The Syrian official said the chances for obtaining freedom for three British hostages appeared to have improved following the recent thaw in Iranian-British relations. But the fate of the other captives, including nine Americans, "was linked to the Gulf war," he said.

Lebanese Interior Minister Dr Abdullah Al Rassi said today he expected the hostages to be released before the end of the year.

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ایران نے مذاکرات کی
تجزیہ و تحلیل کرنی
جوہو مسلم لیگ کی
صدارت چھوڑ دیں گے
ماکو اور کابل کی پاکستان
کوارٹرنگ
اسرائیل مغربی کنارہ کو رو
غم میں کرے گا
راجیو گاندھی کے خلاف
اپوزیشن کا اتحاد
مکتوب پاکستان اور
پیشکشیات

WEATHER

HOT summer weather with light north-westerly wind.

State of sea: slight

High water: 7.00 am, 10.30 pm

Low water: 1.00 am, 4.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.12 am

Sunset: 6.35 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Ahmedi: 41°C 106°F

Falaka: 41°C 106°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Ahmedi: 31°C 88°F

Falaka: 31°C 88°F

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 45% 115°F

Ahmedi: 41°C 106°F

Falaka: 41°C 106°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 8 per cent

Ahmedi: 54 per cent

Falaka: 55 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 10 per cent

Ahmedi: 30 per cent

Falaka: 50 per cent

16 killed in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Aug 7. (AP): Heavy fighting between Indian troops and Tamil rebels claimed 10 lives in northern Sri Lanka today, an Indian spokeswoman said.

According to a spokeswoman for the Indian high commission, the clash took place near Vavuniya, 217 kilometres (135 miles) northwest of Colombo. She said eight Tamil rebels and two Indian soldiers were killed.

Three Indian soldiers also were critically injured, she said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In central and southern Sri Lanka, Sinhalese extremists shot and killed six people during the weekend, according to the Sri Lankan military command.

The Sri Lankan command said one of the six victims of Sinhalese attacks included a Sinhalese Army lieutenant who was on home leave in Kuliyapitiya, 60 kilometres (37 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Five other people were killed in the Sinhalese heartland along the island nation's south coast. Police sources said all of them were government supporters or were thought to be police informers.

About 49,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in Sri Lanka as a peacekeeping force to try to end the Tamil insurrection against the Sinhalese-dominated government and enforce a peace plan.

Death toll reaches 858 in epidemic in India

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (AP): The nationwide death toll from cholera and gastro-enteritis reached at least 858 after the two diseases claimed 30 more lives, news reports said today.

Eleven deaths were reported in New Delhi, according to United News of India and Press Trust of India. At least 260 people in the capital have died of the water-borne diseases, the agencies said.

Thirteen deaths were reported in Ahmedabad, about 650 kilometres (400 miles) southwest of New Delhi, UNI said. So far, 202 people have died there.

Nagaland under president's rule

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi moved today to end a political crisis in northeastern Nagaland, sacking its minority Congress (I) Party government and dissolving the state assembly.

The Press Trust of India, in a brief dispatch, said Rajiv's government utilised a constitutional provision known as "president's rule" to place Nagaland under its control.

Government-run television said Governor K.V. Krishnarao, New Delhi's chief representative in Nagaland, told the central Home Ministry in a letter that "a situation has arisen in the state in which the government cannot go on."

Junejo to resign from party presidency

Opposition blames Zia for communal violence

SUKKUR, Pakistan, Aug 7. (Reuters): Pakistan's main opposition alliance said yesterday the decision by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to bar political parties from participating in forthcoming elections was designed to foster communal violence.

Leaders of the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) alliance met at Sukkur, 320 km (200 miles) north of Karachi, to discuss ways of persuading Zia to reverse his decision.

They say the 1985 elections led to communal and sectarian tensions because of such a ban and Zia wanted the same thing to happen in the national elections planned for Nov 16.

About 500 people have died in ethnic violence in the southern province of Sind in the past 22 months.

Demolish

"The MRD rejects Zia's announcement on partyless elections," MRD spokesman Rasool Bakhsh Pateel told newsmen after the meeting. "It shows Zia's dishonesty towards the nation."

Pateel said the MRD would try to "demolish the wall of

hatred" between different ethnic groups.

"The ethnic riots are a deep-rooted conspiracy to divide the people and trouble the country," said Mairaj Mohammed Khan, chief of the Qaumi Mohazze Azadi, an MRD party.

Opposition parties are planning to challenge the election ban in court and to hold protest rallies in major towns. The first rally was held at Sukkur on Friday and the next is due in Peshawar on Thursday.

Pateel said the MRD had noted with deep concern an inflow of arms in Sind, the home

province of Benazir Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party is the main force in the alliance.

Benazir, expects her first child by the end of the year. She did not attend the Sukkur rally for health reasons, an aide said.

Choose

Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League sources said today in Islamabad that the deposed prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, will resign from the post of party president on Saturday.

Different factions of the Muslim League will meet on Aug 13 in Islamabad to choose a new

party chief. Since May 29, when Junejo was sacked, the party has fragmented into half a dozen factions.

Junejo was ousted for asserting his authority in the affairs of the government beyond Zia's expectations.

Junejo first decided not to give up party leadership.

But Junejo's mentor Pir Sahib of Pagara in a meeting with Zia decided that Junejo will have to resign.

Pir Pagara, leader of one faction of the Muslim League, has remained friendly to Zia and supports the President.

INTERNATIONAL

Murphy meets Shamir

Israel rejects plans for an independent Palestinian state

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 7. (Agencies): In a rare show of unity, left and right-wing ministers in Israel's coalition government joined today in rejecting Palestinian plans for an independent Arab state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As Israeli leaders met US envoy Richard Murphy for Middle East peace talks, Labour minister said Israeli policy would not be swayed by Jordan's handover of responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO or reported plans for a Palestinian state.

"Neither Jordan nor the Palestinians will dictate a unilateral solution," the Labour Party statement said.

Decision
"Israel rejects out of hand any attempt to set up a new state and Israel absolutely rejects any attempt to create facts on the ground either through terror, violence or plans to set up a PLO state," it said.

The government has taken no decision on the Jordanian move nor on blueprints for an independent Arab state which have been

reported in the media over the past two days. But ministers leaving the weekly cabinet meeting said such a state was unacceptable.

Palestinians said the underground leaders in the occupied territories were about to declare statehood in a bid to make political gains from an eight-month-old uprising in which at least 248 Palestinians and four Israelis have died.

Intolerance
Welfare and Employment Minister Moshe Katsav, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Bloc, told reporters: "It is imperative that... the PLO should not fill the vacuum left by Jordan and I am confident Israel's security forces are fully capable of preventing that."

The national religious party's Yosef Shapira called for the 1978 Camp David peace accords to be scrapped, leaving Israel free to annex the territory. Shamir has already rejected similar calls.

Murphy, US Assistant Secretary of State, met Shamir for two hours in talks that he

later called useful, and he appealed to Arabs and Israelis to begin urgent talks on a political settlement.

"Arabs and Israelis can break out of the current stalemate by reaching out to one another. Words and actions of accommodation must replace rhetoric of intolerance," Murphy told reporters.

He would not comment on the Palestinian independence call other than to say that Palestinians must be involved in peace talks at every stage.

No major incidents were reported in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite a call by leaders of the uprising to stage massive demonstrations during Murphy's visit.

Demands
Shamir said in an interview published today in London that Israel will not annex the West Bank and will not negotiate with the PLO.

In an interview with the Observer newspaper, Shamir was quoted as rejecting demands from his right-wing supporters for annexation as a solution to

the problem of the occupied territories on grounds it would violate the 1978 Camp David agreement.

The Camp David accord envisage an interim period of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank followed by negotiations for a final settlement.

"I say we are committed to this agreement," Shamir was quoted as saying. "The permanent status of these territories (the West Bank) is a separate subject for negotiations. We are ready to negotiate with the Palestinians, we are ready to negotiate with Egypt, we are ready to negotiate with Jordan."

But the Israeli leader stressed that the decision of King Hussein of Jordan to turn over responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO does not mean that Israel will negotiate with the PLO "and that has to be clear."

"We don't see any chance, because the PLO by its ideology, by its philosophy, is opposed to peace and it is unreasonable to talk about peace with people who are against peace," he was quoted as saying.

Brunei job offers false

(Continued from Page 1)

The British embassy in question is situated.

The notice describes terms of employment.

The minimum annual wages, it says, are US \$20,000 and that is for "simple jobs". It also mentions benefits including housing, free board and transportation, and even an opportunity to gain status as an immigrant, supposedly to help Brunei balance its population requirements.

The wages quoted in the notice are ridiculous, Banks said. "The Sultan of Brunei may be a philanthropist but even so, the salaries mentioned are unbelievable," he said.

Brunei can easily recruit labour from the Philippines or Thailand, he said, adding that Kuwait would be an unlikely place to look for a workforce. The notice stresses Brunei's links with the Arab world.

Applications

The description of Brunei in the notice is the one of a land of promise but the circular warns that "the climate is equatorial, to much raining, forests, and animals, too."

Although the notice states that there is a dire need for construction workers, it also invites applications from "technical and non-technical and administrative" professionals.

Those applications should be addressed to the Controller of Immigration in the capital of Brunei, it says, but the name of the city is misspelled.

Banks says it is clear the notice was not written by a native English speaker, noting that it contains Indian phraseology.

In the past, similar notices required applicants to send a small amount of money to a given address, Banks said. But this is not the case with this circular.

"I don't believe that this is the way Brunei would recruit labour," said Banks.

Banks said if the sultanate was serious about recruiting in this part of the world it would send a labour councillor to do the job.

Hungary to build a Disneyland

BUDAPEST, Aug 7. (Reuters): Hungary wants to build Eastern Europe's first Disneyland, a further sign of the reform-minded communist country's desire to embrace the spirit of free market economics.

Prime Minister Karoly Grosz visited the original Disneyland in Anaheim, California, during his 10-day visit to the United States last month.

He returned home enthusiastic about what he saw, telling a radio interviewer last week that a Disneyland vice-president would visit Hungary in September to discuss building a new outpost of capitalism's most famous amusement park.

The first Disneyland outside the United States opened in Tokyo in 1983 and draws 10 million visitors a year. Another is due to open outside Paris in 1992.

Hungary leads the Soviet bloc in introducing economic and political reforms. It was the first Eastern European country to open a McDonald's fast food restaurant, which began operations in Budapest in April.

Grosz pledged during the US trip to ease control over the economy and open Hungary to foreign capital.

'KGB wanted to know if I was a spy'

Rust describes his journey

LONDON, Aug 7. (Reuters): Matthias Rust, the West German who landed his light aircraft near Moscow's Red Square, said a Soviet MiG fighter came so close to his plane during his daredevil flight that he could see the crew's faces, the Mail on Sunday reported.

Speaking in an interview published by the newspaper, Rust described how the MiG circled his Cessna plane twice in Soviet air space during his May 1987 flight.

Interrogation

"Then I was frightened, all right. The MiG came so close I could see the crew's faces. For all I knew a heat-seeking guided missile might be the next thing," Rust said in the interview, billed

by the Mail as an exclusive. "I would have followed them if I had been told to. But they just looked at me twice and then flew off," Rust said, adding that he could not understand why he was not intercepted.

The Soviet Union released Rust, 20, on Wednesday from Moscow's Lefortovo prison, where he had served little over a quarter of a four-year sentence for malicious hooliganism and violation of flight and border laws, and put him on a plane to West Germany.

Rust described his interrogation by Soviet KGB agents as gruelling but perfectly correct.

The KGB wanted to know if he was a spy for the West Germans or the US Central

Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"I kept telling them I had come only for peace to try to make things better," Rust said in the interview.

His motive in making the flight was to deliver to the Soviet Union and its leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, his own blueprint for a utopia which he named "Langonia."

Secret

"It was my dream of course, that perhaps Mr Gorbachev would see it. Whether he ever did I've no idea," Rust said of the 20-page manifesto which accompanied him on the solo flight.

He planned the trip in secret for months with navigation maps and calculators which he kept hidden from his parents.

Dukakis takes press on 'power walk'

DENVER, Colorado, Aug 7. (Reuters): Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, whose medical history became a campaign issue this week, took several dozen weary-eyed reporters on his daily three-mile "power walk" at dawn on Saturday.

The Democratic nominee's campaign aides, used to puffing alongside Dukakis on his walks, calculated they have about 300 miles (500 km) to go before the Nov 8 general election.

Dukakis this week flatly denied reports that he sought treatment for depression after his brother was killed in a car accident in 1973 and after he lost a gubernatorial primary in 1978.

The Massachusetts Governor released a medical report by his physician, who gave him a clean bill of health.

Dukakis challenged journalists covering the campaign to join him for Saturday's brisk hike around Denver's city park using a technique he calls "power walking."

Several dozen took up the challenge, jogging alongside the candidate as he strode round a lake at a rapid clip, swinging four-pound (two kilo) weights in his hands.

"There are no sprints -- this is a marathon," Dukakis said, invoking his metaphor for the presidential race. He completed the three-mile walk in under 40 minutes.



Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis (left) takes an early morning walk with reporters and some supporters in Denver's city park. (Reuters wirephoto)



Paramedics carry an injured passenger of a runaway train that smashed into buffers at Paris station. (Reuters wirephoto)

Following Paris trains' crash

French railroad chief quits

PARIS, Aug 7. (AP): The president of France's state-run railroad resigned today in the wake of the second serious train wreck in six weeks. But unions claimed changing presidents only camouflaged the government's own responsibility.

The resignation of Philippe Rouvoille, 53, was accepted by Transport Minister Michel Delebarre, who said last night that instructions given by the government after an earlier accident had not been sufficiently applied. "I don't believe in fate," the minister said.

Mechanical
A suburban train crashed into a terminal barrier yesterday in Paris' Gare de L'est station, killing a 29-year-old man and injuring 57 other people. The initial investigation indicated the cause of the crash was mechanical and

not a human error.

On June 27, a train crash at another Paris station, the Gare de Lyon, killed 56 people and injured 32. Those accidents, coupled with several minor incidents, have heightened concern about safety on the railroad, the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais, commonly known by its initials, SNCF said.

According to SNCF officials, the driver of the train told them he noticed nothing unusual during his run from Chateau Thierry, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north-east of Paris, until he entered the Gare de L'est. Then, he said, the brakes did not respond.

A review of the train's "black box" recorder indicated the driver correctly braked and that a slowing of the train occurred, the company said. But the recorder

showed that while breaking was normal, the engine continued to push the train, which entered the station at 20 to 30 kilometres per hour (12-19 miles per hour).

"It's like having your foot on the accelerator and the brake at the same time," said SNCF spokesman Yves Cheneil.

Controls
The train, which Cheneil said was about four years old, is what is known as a "reversible," that is it can be either pulled by an engine or pushed by it. When it is pushed, the driver controls the train from a cabin located in the first car.

That was the situation yesterday when the first car slammed into the barrier, rode up on it and twisted at a right angle. The other three cars and the engine remained on the tracks.

Two French 'kidnappers' in custody

BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 7. (AP): Two Frenchmen alleged to have been members of a gang that kidnapped the 5-year-old daughter of a Lebanese businessman were taken today for an initial appearance, police said.

Jean Louis Camerini and Alan Coelver were arrested Thursday in Barcelona.

The court's judge plans to interrogate them soon and decide whether they should be released or retained in custody while awaiting trial, police said.

Camerini allegedly led the gang that kidnapped Melodie Nakachian on Nov 9 as she was being driven to school in the Mediterranean resort of Marbella.

She is the daughter of Lebanese contractor Raymond Nakachian, a resident of Spain, and Korean singer Kimera, 33. The child was found unhurt in a raid on a house in Estepona, another coastal town, 11 days later.

The abductors had threatened to kill the girl and demanded a ransom of \$13 million.

Police said a total of nine people have been arrested in connection with the kidnapping.

Indian ferry disaster

No more bodies found

PATNA, India, Aug 7. (UPI): Police staged a baton-charge today to disperse some 3,000 people demanding the Bihar state government speed up a search for more than 400 people missing and feared drowned after a ferry boat capsized, a witness said.

The confirmed death toll remained at 40 in yesterday's disaster on the Ganges river near the remote town of Kuthar, 155 miles (250 km) east of the state capital of Patna, officials said.

Disclosing new details of the mishap, officials in Patna, 650 miles (1,050 km) southeast of New Delhi, said the operators of the double-decked World War II vintage ferry had packed at least 540 passengers onto the vessel, which had a seating capacity of only 160.

Swam
They said 535 people, most of them Hindu pilgrims, had purchased tickets for the ferry and five members of the Bihar military police boarded for free. The boat also had a crew of about 20, they said.

After the vessel capsized, about 100 people riding on the

upper deck either swam ashore or were pulled from the swirling waters by local boatmen, officials said. Forty bodies had reportedly been recovered by last night.

The manager of L.C.P. Co., which operated the ferry, was arrested today, officials said, and Bihar Chief Minister Bhagwati Jha Azad ordered a high-level inquiry into the disaster. He and senior members of his cabinet left for the scene today.

Unruly
A local journalist, reached by telephone in Kuthar, said that throughout the day, members of missing victims' families and local villagers had flocked to the bank of the rain-swollen Ganges.

The crowd shouted slogans calling for the arrest of L.C.P. Co. owner Bacha Singh and demanding the state government work faster to recover the missing, said the journalist, who asked not to be identified.

He said when the protesters, numbering about 3,000 people, became unruly, police staged a baton-charge to drive them away from the area.

It was not known if there were any injuries.

SDI forced Soviets to accept arms cut

Reagan defends defence bill veto

WASHINGTON, Aug 7. (Reuters): President Reagan, battling with Congress over funds for his "Star Wars" system, yesterday credited the controversial programme with forcing the Soviet Union into arms reduction talks.

Reagan earlier in the week vetoed a defence spending bill, in part because it fell short of the \$4.8 billion he sought in funding for the space-based system formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Importance
"If I had accepted that bill, it would have undermined the (military) strength we worked so hard to restore, in time jeopardising all our remarkable diplomatic advances," Reagan said in his weekly radio address.

"Congress's defence bill represented an all but open attempt to block our Strategic Defence Initiative," he said.

"Yet no development has been of greater importance in our strategic arms negotiations with the Soviets than our decision to proceed with SDI."

Hoped
"Congress wants to cut our budget request for SDI deeply," Reagan complained. He said the bill "represents an attempt by Congress to handcuff the President in our arms reduction negotiations with the Soviets."

"This kind of unilateral concession to the Soviets could set back all the progress we've made on the arms reduction front," he said.

The Senate on Friday rejected an attempt to add \$500 million for the SDI programme to a revised defence bill, which would authorise \$4 billion for the project in the next fiscal year.

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, in the Democrats' response to Reagan, accused the President of pandering to election-year politics in his veto of the bill, hoping to aid Vice President George Bush, the prospective Republican presidential nominee.

"I had hoped that President Reagan would put national defence above partisan politics," said Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"I had hoped that President Reagan would listen to those who urged him not to veto this important bill, including his secretary of defence and his national security adviser," Nunn said.

Reagan would veto the bill, which would authorise \$4 billion for the project in the next fiscal year.

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Turkish referendum moved closer

ANKARA, Aug 7. (Reuters): A referendum which the opposition sees as a major test of confidence in Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is expected in late September, following a parliamentary move today.

Members voted by 263 to 103 to shorten to 40 days from 120 the time which must elapse before a referendum can be held.

Ozal's centre-right Motherland Party voted yesterday to amend the 1982 constitution so that municipal elections can take place on Nov 13, four months ahead of schedule.

A referendum then became inevitable because Motherland's

284 votes fell short of the 300 needed to alter the constitutional requirement that local polls must be held every five years.

"If the referendum says no, Ozal must resign. If it says yes, I will resign," Erdal Inonu, chairman of the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SDPP), said after yesterday's vote.

Motherland sources said Ozal wanted early local polls to clear the decks for unpopular austerity measures aimed at reining in an inflation rate which reached 75.5 per cent in July.

Sunday's move to speed up the referendum on early elections

means it can now be held on the first Sunday 40 days after the decision is published in the official gazette following approval by President Kenan Evren.

Evren has the power to send the law back to Parliament for fresh debate but political sources said this was unlikely and the referendum would probably take place in late September.

Ozal won a second term in general elections last November with 36 per cent of the vote. But a major newspaper poll in June said his popularity rating had now fallen to 29 per cent, three points behind the SDPP.

Earthquake kills three in Assam

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (Agencies): A powerful earthquake that rocked the sub-continent killed three people and injured 12, a news report said today.

The Press Trust of India said the victims lived in northeastern Assam state, the hardest hit by yesterday's quake.

The news agency said two people were killed and 12 others injured when buildings collapsed during the earthquake. The third person died in a traffic accident blamed on the quake, it said.

Tremors were also felt in Dhaka, the capital of neighbouring Bangladesh, but there were no reports of casualties or damage.

The earthquake, which registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, also cracked walls and caused other property damage and triggered landslides in areas of Assam and neighbouring Manipur state.

Caused
A second, less powerful earthquake was reported seven hours later in northern India but was believed to have caused no injuries or serious damage.

The second earthquake, apparently unrelated to the first, was felt in northern Indian and parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, officials said. It measured 6.5 on the Richter scale and was centred in the Hindu Kush mountains.

H.L. Srivastava, director of New Delhi's seismological observation, said the earlier "high intensity" earthquake was centred 1,130 miles (1,820 km) to the southeast inside Burmese territory, just over the border from India's tiny jungle-covered Manipur state.

In India, the shock waves rolled through a region stretching from the eastern Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south.

In Bangladesh, the earthquake lasted more than one minute and was felt across a large area, prompting hundreds of people to flee in panic from swaying buildings in the capital, Dhaka.

New maps help blind find way around Washington

WASHINGTON, Aug 7. (AP): Blind and visually impaired visitors now can rely on an unusual new set of maps to get their bearings around the monuments and landmarks of the nation's capital.

The maps, intended for free distribution through congressional offices, are 14-by-19 inch (35.5-by-48 centimetre) plastic sheets that depict such landmarks as the Lincoln Memorial, the White House and the Washington Monument as bumps shaped like their actual contours. They carry legends in both English and Braille.

The maps cover the Mall, Capitol Hill, Arlington Cemetery, the two Jima Memorial and other sights, as well as the floor plan of the US Capitol.

A separate map and smaller pocket guide covers the metro rapid transit system. Different geometric shapes let vision-impaired visitors know not only the subway stops but what side of the platform the train comes in on.

About \$85,000 of the \$150,000 contract went to produce six larger display modules of the maps which will be placed around Washington.

And 20 travelling exhibits that will be lent to libraries and other places around the country.

George Covington, a legally blind interior department official who directed the "tactile capital" project, said, "these maps are unique."

Hussein will recognise ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Territories Ministry to a newly formed department attached to the Foreign Ministry.

Dudin said the newly formed department "will take care of some social, economic and legal affairs in the occupied West Bank."

The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, a PLO official said today.

Examined
The Palestinian sources said the plan for the government-in-exile, examined by leaders of the uprising in consultation with the PLO, could alternatively involve a call for UN custodianship of occupied areas.

They said the idea had gained impetus since Jordan announced an end to legal and administrative ties with the territories last week to make way for PLO leadership there.

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500-403505 and Miss Adeline Jerome Fernandes, daughter of Mr Jerome Cezan Fernandes, Kumbhasth Chaw, Andher East, Bombay, both Indian nationals, presently residing in Kuwait have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage he/she should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rules within thirty days from the date of publication of notice.



(S.S. Mahesh) Notary Public (Competent and Member of Bar) District Court of Bombay, Mumbai.

مكتبة العربية

Move to wrest control of vacated cities

Afghan rebels to set up Army

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7. (Reuters): A guerrilla council in northern Afghanistan has proposed the creation of a regular Army to wrest cities from government control as Soviet forces leave the country, spokesmen for the group said on Saturday.

Four men forming a delegation of the so-called supervisory council of the north told a news conference they had brought the proposal to the Pakistan-based main guerrilla alliance for a decision.

They said the council, led by rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masood and operating in 10 provinces north of the capital Kabul, had suggested the Army be formed at the start with 13,000 men.

They said they wanted the alliance to provide resources for creating the proposed Army.

The Western-backed Muslim guerrillas say they control more than 80 per cent of the countryside, with the Soviet-backed Kabul government ruling only the cities.

"Scattered groups cannot win the war, we have to have an Army," council delegation leader Syed Hussain said.

Masood belongs to the

Jamiat-e-Islami party of Burhanuddin Rabbani and holds sway over a large part of north-east Afghanistan that Soviet troops must cross if they withdraw to the Soviet border by road.

Jamiat, one of the seven parties forming the guerrilla alliance headquartered in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, dominates the council whose 200 members also include men from other groups.

The delegation members said they had discussed the proposal with Rabbani who had backed it but were yet to take it up with the leaders of other six parties in the alliance.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul reported that nine people were killed and 10 others injured in a rocket attack on Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

Friday's attack is being blamed by the Afghan government on Afghan guerrillas, who have been fighting the Soviet-backed government for more than eight years.

Afghanistan's state-run radio also said about 31 pounds (14 kilograms) of explosives were seized in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Radio Kabul yesterday also contradicted a Pashto-language broadcast today which reported Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had left the Afghan capital.

The government-controlled radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Shevardnadze was still in Kabul and met with several federal and provincial government officials. There was no reference to the earlier report.

Radio Kabul also confirmed Soviet soldiers will be pulled out of the besieged city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. The terms of a United Nations brokered accord demands half of an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers must be out of Afghanistan by Aug 15. The remainder are to be gone by Feb 15.

According to Soviet news agency Tass, Shevardnadze met with government and military officials yesterday on the third day of his visit to Afghanistan.

The Soviet official discussed relations between his country and the pro-Soviet Afghan government and the war against anti-government insurgents in meetings with three Afghan vice-presidents. Members of Parliament, governors, and

military men, Tass said.

Among those he met were Shah Nawaz Tanai, the Afghan military chief of staff, and Interior Minister Sayed Mohammad Ghulabzoi, Tass said.

It provided little detail of Shevardnadze's talks with the officials.

Shevardnadze arrived on Thursday in Kabul, the Afghan capital, on a previously unannounced working visit. The previous day he met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Moscow, and accused Pakistan of terrorism for its continued support of the rebels.

Shevardnadze met with Afghan President Najib on Friday.

The Soviet Union sent soldiers to Afghanistan in December 1979 to replace one pro-Soviet government with another, and to fight the rebels. Since then more than 13,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed in the fighting.

Under the terms of an agreement reached among the United States, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in Geneva on April 14, the Soviet Union is withdrawing its soldiers from Afghanistan.

Pakistani mourners burn US, Soviet flags

PESHAWAR, Aug 7. (AP): Flags of the United States, and Soviet Union were torched yesterday during a funeral service for the assassinated Pakistani Shiite leader Arif Hussain Al Hussaini.

An unidentified assassin shot Hussaini, 42, early Friday, and no one has claimed responsibility. Sporadic demonstrations broke out in several Pakistani cities following the shooting but were quickly brought under control.

About 5,000 wailing and weeping mourners converged on Finaah Park in the old city of the Frontier capital beating their chests and heads and burning flags.

Great
Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was greeted by demonstrators chanting anti-Zia slogans when he arrived at the park to offer prayers for Hussaini.

He was accompanied by his caretaker government officials as well as several provincial government representatives.

The head of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, attended the funeral. Iran yesterday reportedly declared a national day of mourning because of the Shiite leader's death.

Hussain Asghar a mourner from Hangu, about 50 miles (80 km) south of Peshawar, said: "Hussaini believed in pan-Islamism and his murder was to separate Islam."

Violent
He warned: "We (Shi'ites) believe in taking revenge... The revenge will be decided by the central committee of (Hussaini's) political party."

However Asghar ruled out violent clashes between Pakistan's Sunni and Shia Muslims. "We believe Sunnis and Shias will not quarrel. Eighty per cent of Pakistan's Sunnis condemned the murder and Sunnis have come to pay their respects," he said.

In the mid-1970s Hussaini was expelled from Iraq after being accused of stirring anti-government unrest and later studied in Iran.

Libya ready to open embassy in Chad

TUNIS, Aug 7. (UPI): Libya is ready to open an embassy in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena and allow Chad to open a mission in Tripoli, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi was quoted as saying today.

Khaddafi made the surprise statement last night after talk with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the Libyan capital, the official Tunisian news agency TAP said.

"Libya has sufficient courage and credibility to state that it places itself in a position of neutrality regarding this problem," TAP quoted Khaddafi saying.

Ben Ali had two hours of talks on the telephone with Chadian President Hissen Habre before he went to Tripoli Saturday for his first visit to Libya since he seized power in November from "senile" President Habib Bourguiba, official sources said.

If Khaddafi went ahead with efforts to open a "people's bureau," or embassy, in Chad it would be a remarkable about turn for the Libyan strongman.

Students clash with officials

Three shot dead in Burma

RANGOON, Aug 7. (Reuters): Burmese police have killed at least three people and wounded 20 in spreading anti-government riots in Burma, the state press said today.

An emergency decree banning public gatherings was slapped on Pegu, nearby Thanatpin and northern Yenangyaung after high school students and townspeople clashed with officials on yesterday. News Agency Burma (NAB) said.

NAB said police in Pegu shot dead three people and wounded 18 others as they tried to fend off stone-throwing students and townspeople who attacked their loudspeaker vehicle, which was broadcasting the emergency dispersal orders.

It said four policemen also shot into a crowd of rioters in Thanatpin but gave no details of

casualties. They were set upon by about 70 people who bore down to within 10 feet (three metres) of them, wielding swords, spears and firing steel pellets from slingshots, NAB said.

Sein Lwin, who took over as ruling party chairman and state President in late July, has become the focus of protest because of his role in the suppression of dissent throughout the 26-year rule of his predecessor Ne Win.

Discontent
His government faces discontent over police repression and falling living standards.

Pegu and nearby Thanatpin are about 80 km (50 miles) north of Rangoon, which was put under martial law on Wednesday to preempt student-led calls for a massive antigovernment protest tomorrow.

In Yenangyaung, 580 km (360 miles) north of the capital, about 2,000 people rioted from yesterday morning into the night, according to NAB, which said police wounded one demonstrator.

NAB said 27 alleged looters and political agitators, including students and civil servants were arrested yesterday by security officials in Rangoon.

On Friday night Rangoon Radio said 149 people had been detained for taking part in street protests in defiance of the martial law decree.

Army troops took over Rangoon's streets on Friday to stifle a week of peaceful public protests. Loudspeaker vans have been touring the capital to warn people of the consequences of demonstrating in defiance of martial law.

Fires kill five in Algeria

ALGIERS, Aug 7. (AP): Five people died and at least 32 were injured in forest fires last week in the Kabyle mountains near Bejaia, the official Algerian news agency reported.

Sixteen separate fires broke out Tuesday and Wednesday in the hills around Bejaia while midday temperatures soared to 48 degrees Centigrade (118F).

The harbour town of Bejaia and its 130,000 inhabitants were virtually cut off from communications by land at one time, apparently explaining why the state-run Algerian media failed to mention the fires for several days.

The news agency said about 1,000 vacationers threatened by the flames at a beach resort in the Aiguades forest near Bejaia had to be rescued by a flotilla of small boats.

The fire services of cities as far away as Batna, 180 kilometres to the south, were summoned to the scene.

The agency said the intervention of civil defence and petroleum security services narrowly averted a catastrophe in Bejaia's oil harbour, the terminus of a pipeline from the Saharan oilfields.

US won't deal with Filipino kidnappers

ILIGAN, Philippines, Aug. 7 (UPI): The United States refuses to negotiate with Muslim kidnappers holding an American and his Filipino wife hostage in a remote southern jungle, a diplomat said today.

The diplomat, US consul Frank Huddle disclosed the United States' unwillingness to make a deal with the kidnappers after he met briefly with American military officials.

Philippine authorities, meanwhile, appealed through an emissary for the release of David Suffer, 47, and his wife Elpidia Benuya by the outlaw gang that abducted the two from a public minibus one week ago.

Negotiations
The kidnappers, believed to have broken away from one of several Muslim separatist armies active in the island of Mindanao, reportedly through messengers yesterday that the couple was "alive and well" and that demands for their release would be presented soon.

Three Philippine businessmen kidnapped by the same group a week earlier have been found dead, the military said yesterday. Huddle, US consul in the cen-

tral city of Cebu, flew with two military attaches today to the city of Iligan, 50 km north of where the hostages are believed held. The hostages are thought to be held in Ganazzi, a small jungle-bound village on the shore of Lake Lanao in Lanao del Sur province.

"The US government will not negotiate with any kidnapper," Huddle said.

"We are leaving this matter to the Philippine government," he added from the airplane at Iligan airport.

"So far we are satisfied by the way the military is handling the case," Resos said a reformed rebel commander, Jamil Lucman, had sent an emissary to find the kidnappers and advise them that Suffer cannot personally pay a requested ransom, which sources said was set at 100,000 pesos (\$5,000).

"He is just a construction worker," said Resos, who also warned the military would resume search-and-rescue operations if the couple had not been released within 15 days, despite warnings the two will be killed if a rescue is attempted.

ملتان سے لکھی



Thatcher listens to girls singing to her in a Kampuchean refugee camp on the Thai-Kampuchea border. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese loot watermelons

BEIJING, Aug 7. (AP): Twenty thousand Chinese peasants raided a watermelon patch in central China last month and made off with a fortune in the nation's most coveted summer fruit, according to a report.

The incident, reported by the Legal Daily (Fazhi Ribao), was the most serious case of melon looting reported this year in what has become a perennial problem for China's watermelon growers.

The report said the peasants on July 11 picked clean a 187-hectare (462-acre) field jointly contracted by 260 farmers in Zhengyang county.

The farmers, who "pleaded and tried their best to prevent the looters," sustained losses of 2.1 million yuan (\$568,000), it said. Thirty were seriously injured while trying to stop the melon thieves.

The daily said peasants, jealous of the success of the watermelon farmers, began gathering around the field of ripened melons on July 8. Local police prevented looting on that day, but the crowds swelled over the next few days to 20,000 on July 11. By the time police arrived that day, it was too late.

Thatcher meets Kampuchean leader

BANGKOK, Aug 7. (AP): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flew to a refugee camp in eastern Thailand today to meet a guerrilla leader and thousands of Kampuchean who fled the nearly decade-old war in their homeland.

Mrs Thatcher met at site B camp by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a former monarch whose Army is allied with two other guerrilla groups battling Vietnamese forces that invaded Kampuchea in late 1978.

Mrs Thatcher will also visit a hospital and library there, and present a portion of Britain's annual humanitarian aid to the refugees.

The United Nations-aided camp is in Surin province, about nine kilometres (5.5 miles) from the Kampuchean border. Its bamboo and thatched-roof huts shelter more than 53,000 refugees who fled a devastating 1985 Vietnamese offensive that overran every major guerrilla stronghold along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Mrs Thatcher was on the second day of the first visit to Thailand by a British Prime Minister since World War II. She arrived from Malaysia, where she stopped briefly for talks with Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohamad, after a six-day visit to Australia.

She was greeted at Bangkok airport by outgoing Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who introduced her to his successor, flamboyant millionaire and former diplomat Chatichai Choonhavan. Two days earlier, Chatichai became the nation's first elected Prime Minister in 12 years.

Before returning home Tuesday, Mrs Thatcher is to hold talks with government leaders and meet with the country's constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and Queen Sirikit at Chitralada Palace.

Crocodile

Mrs Thatcher, on the final day of her Australian tour yesterday, came as close as prime ministerial security these days permits to encountering nature in the raw.

Visiting Brisbane's Expo 1988, an international trade show resembling Disneyland, she was introduced to a young crocodile and to a koala.

Mrs Thatcher's husband Denis, clearly bidding for his second "Crocodile Denis" headline of the week (after donning a bush hat in Perth), obliged photographers by picking up the small crocodile.

Flood-hit Sudan appeals for help

KHARTOUM, Aug 7. (Reuters): Sudan has appealed for international help as flooding following torrential rain stranded more than a million people.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem made the appeal after announcing that Khartoum had been declared a disaster area along with three towns to the east and north.

As he spoke last night angry Khartoum residents took to the streets shouting anti-government slogans to protest lack of power and drinking water and shortage of food.

Long bread queues formed throughout the capital and most shops have closed.

Scores of people have been electrocuted as eroded pylons keeled over bringing power lines crashing down, eyewitnesses said.

All telephone and telex links with the outside world were cut and Khartoum airport was closed for 24 hours.

Thousands in the capital are without shelter. Nour Al Dayem said rain destroyed 5,000 homes but newspapers said the figure was nearer 10,000.

The deluge began on Thursday and 21 centimetres (over eight inches) of rain fell without a break in the next 13 hours, according to the minister.

Sudan, whose 23 million people are among the poorest in the world, appealed to the United Nations in June for help in dealing with drought.

Last week Sudan declared itself a locust-infested area and appealed for international help to combat 30 swarms eating their way through scarce crops.

The country's problems have been worsened by a major refugee problem as thousands flee north from fighting in the south between government forces and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

311 found alive after floods in China

BEIJING, Aug 7. (AP): Rescuers located 311 people who had been missing and presumed dead after flash floods and heavy rains ravaged a province on the Chinese coast, a newspaper reported.

The Xinmin Evening News (Xinmin Wanbao) reported that 50 people were still missing from the floods that hit Zhejiang province on July 29-30. In all, 264 people have been confirmed dead in the disaster. The economic loss has been estimated at more than 600 million yuan (\$162 million), the paper said.

"Using a variety of methods... 311 people have been found," the paper said. It did not elaborate.

Local officials interviewed by telephone shortly after the disaster said it was the worst rain in 100 years.

Qiu Weikang, an official from the flood-hit city of Ningbo, said 460 millimetres (18 inches) of rain fell in a few or six hour period in parts of five hard-hit counties near Ningbo, a prosperous commercial city on the East China Sea.

The Evening News said the rains and flood destroyed 27,000 houses and 944 schools. More than 52,000 people have been given temporary shelter, it said.

More than 800 people have died in floods this year in coastal, southern and northern China. Another 500 were killed by a heat wave in cities in the Yangtze River valley.

The most recent flood occurred yesterday morning in Shanxi province in northern China. The official Xinhua news agency reported that at least 21 people died and 19 others were missing after Fenyang county was hit by more than three hours of rain.

Lebanese have little say in electing a new president

BEIRUT, Aug 7. (Reuters): A new Lebanese president will soon be elected but millions of people longing for an end to 13 years of civil war will have little say in the choice.

"Our president always carries the label, 'made in ...', said an independent Christian politician.

"Either Syria, Israel or the United States will decide."

"We lived through 13 years of war that killed thousands of people and will end up with yet another president chosen by the Syrians and Americans."

"The people wonder who will be president but don't have a chance to say who they really want," he said.

Parliament must before Sept 23 elect Amin Gemayel's successor, who under the national covenant has to be another Christian Maronite.

But many Lebanese feel the 76 surviving deputies in the 99-seat house do not represent their aspirations and are open to foreign pressure.

Strife

The country's Christians and Muslims elected the present parliament in 1972, three years before the start of the strife.

Continued bloodshed and political bickering have stopped a whole new generation from voting for new deputies. The same house has chosen three presidents since 1972.

Political analysts say the United States, Syria and Israel are the main powers jockeying for influence in the polls.

But the final decisions will be for Damascus, which has 25,000 troops in Lebanon and has established itself as the leading force in determining the outcome.

The analysts say Washington is interested in ensuring smooth elections in co-operation with Syria to boost the chances of an overall Middle East peace settlement.

They say Israel has taken a low profile in the polls, contrary to the powerful role it played after its 1982 invasion when Bashir Gemayel was elected, only to be assassinated by a bomb three weeks later.

But Israel, they say, does not want a president who will challenge its presence in the south, where it maintains a border "security zone," or one completely allied to Syria.

Scores of lawyers and businessmen are reported to be running in the forthcoming polls, but so far only three politicians have declared their candidacies.

Weeks before the polls, the country's politicians flocked to Damascus only to return to Beirut with what they call "lists of potential candidates." From day to day the lists change.

None of the contenders except Dany Chamoun, son of late President Camille Chamoun, have announced a platform or made their policy positions known to the Lebanese, anxiously awaiting a leader who could end their prolonged plight.

"Lebanon is the only country where any Maronite can wake up in the morning to find out he was elected president without him even knowing," Chamoun was recently quoted as saying.

The national covenant stipulates that parliament can elect any Lebanese Maronite as president without him officially running for the post. The covenant stipulates that the Prime Minister must be a Sunni Muslim and the parliamentary speaker a Shi'ite.

The weekly Al Aftak magazine recently published unofficial statistics showing that 45 per cent of the people did not know who Michel Al Khoury, one of the leading potential candidates, was. Twelve per cent said they did not care who won.

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Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (left) talks to Khaddafi on his arrival in Tripoli. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iraqi minister arrives

IRAQI Interior Minister, Samir Abdulwahab, arrived in Kuwait yesterday for an official visit.

He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yacoub and acting Interior Undersecretary Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed Al Qabandi.

The Iraqi minister told reporters that his visit aims at increasing co-ordination between the interior ministries of the two states.

Sheikh Salem said the visit is mutually beneficial for both Kuwait and Iraq.

He said that there are many issues that need to be settled, including border demarcation and movement of commerce.

Robberies

IT has been learnt that 10 commercial shops in the Dawhiya complex were broken into recently by a number of thieves. Well-informed sources said that the robberies occurred during noon prayers on Friday. The watchman informed the Capital Police and Acting Commander Major Yacoub Al Najadha rushed to the scene.

UK warship nearly downed cargo plane

LONDON, Aug 7, (AP): A British warship came within 10 seconds of shooting down a civilian aircraft over the Gulf near the United Arab Emirates, a newspaper reported today.

The weekly Observer, quoting unnamed air traffic controllers in Dubai, reported the destroyer HMS Cardiff last year targeted surface-to-air missiles at a cargo plane.

Highlighted

The Observer did not specify the date or further identify the plane, but said the alleged incident had never previously been disclosed.

Air traffic controllers quoted by the newspaper said the incident highlighted the dangers of foreign warships operating in the Gulf, where Iran and Iraq have both attacked shipping in their eight-year war.

The Cardiff was on routine escort duty when the cargo plane flew over the ship by mistake and the pilot was not linked to an emergency military radio frequency that could have been used to warn him, the newspaper quoted the controllers.

When the pilot did not respond to warnings from the ship, the Observer said, "preparations were made to shoot down the

plane. Anti-aircraft missiles were within 10 seconds of being launched when a final check revealed the plane was not hostile."

The Observer reported no comment from the Royal Navy.

The air traffic controllers also said a US navy warship once ordered a British Airways flight to change course and nearly caused it to crash into another aircraft.

The Dubai air traffic controllers said they "swiftly countermanded" the order from the US Navy ship and avoided a collision between the two planes, the Observer reported.

No comment from the US Navy was reported.

Inquiry

The article follows an inquiry by the United States into the July 3 downing by the guided-missile cruiser USS Vincennes of an Iran Air jetliner, killing all 290 people aboard.

A Defence Department report blamed the incident on human error by radar operators without combat experience, who wrongly informed Capt. Will C. Rogers the airliner appeared to be an attacking fighter. Defence Department officials said. The report also blamed the accident on stress under combat with Iranian gunboats.

Kuwait praised for holding marine week

HEADS of the GCC delegation taking part in the 5th Marine Week being held here said such an event can help strengthen ties between the GCC youths and encourages them to continue old traditions.

Pioneer

At a press conference held on Saturday at the Shaab Sea Club the officials thanked Kuwait for holding such events and expressed their readiness to participate in future events.

The head of the Saudi Arabian delegation to the week's

activities, Abdullah Al Jarallah, praised Kuwait's efforts in this field. He said that Kuwait is a pioneer in reviving the old heritage, especially that of the marine heritage.

The head of the Bahraini delegation, Abdul Rahman Al Manasei said he is looking forward to more activities. He had particular praise for the diving school and described it as an important part of the training of the GCC youths.

Murad Al Ali, the head of the UAE delegation, said that after the discovery of oil the people of

the GCC states forsook the important professions like diving.

However, he added that all the Gulf states have started paying great attention to the old professions, particularly diving. He called for improving the diving school by providing it with modern facilities and equipment.

Diving

The main event, the diving trip, will begin on Monday and will continue for five days.

The divers strive to imitate their ancestors in searching for pearls.

Kuwaiti gift

Hospitals for Sudan

DR ADEL Al Tawheed, the head of the external affairs committee of the Patients Support Fund, has said that the fund supervised the construction of the Kasla-Kuwait Hospital in Sudan, which extends its services to Sudanese people and refugees.

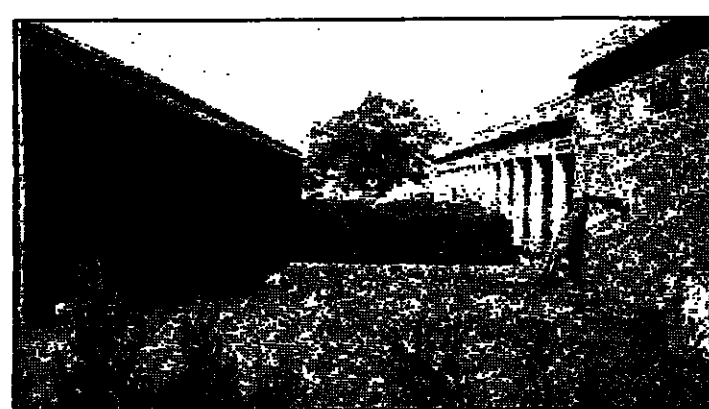
The cost was borne by Yousef and Abdul Aziz Al Muzaini.

The hospital is built on an area of 12,500 square metres and consists of outpatients' department and specialised clinics for women's and children's diseases.

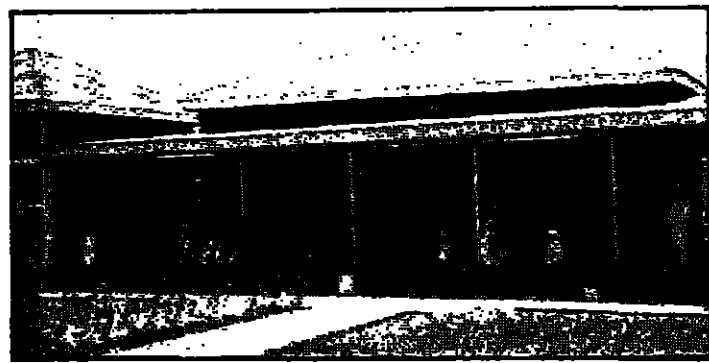
It has a capacity of 80 beds, which have been allocated to children in the area. Between 600 and 700 patients per day are received by the hospital, although it was only opened on July 2 this year, which clearly shows that there is a severe shortage of children's hospitals in the area.

Al Tawheed pointed out that other stages in making all the clinics at the hospital operational were being financed and prepared in co-operation with the Islamic International Charitable Authority, Zakat House and some wealthy Muslims.

He added that the fund had opened a branch in Khartoum to supervise the furnishing and running of the hospital and to follow up other health services of the



Abyadh-Kuwait Hospital



Kasla-Kuwait Hospital

fund in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

He thanked Kuwait's Finance Ministry and Ministry of Public Health for providing the Kasla-Kuwait Hospital with medicine and equipment.

Al Tawheed also noted that the fund was following-up the construction of another hospital

in Abyadh city in Sudan, which is being financed by Dawood Mused Al Saleh. The hospital will consist of an outpatients' department and clinics for delivery and women's and children's diseases.

Al Tawheed called on Muslims to support health services for refugees in Sudan.

Klibi off to New York for UN talks on Gulf

TUNIS, Aug 7, (KUNA): Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi left today for New York for a series of talks with senior officials at the UN.

Klibi's talks in the UN are part of the undertaking of an Arab seven-man committee assigned to follow up developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Decided

At a committee session, held in Baghdad on Aug 2, it was decided to contact the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on ways to effect a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran according to Council Resolution 598.

After his stay in New York, the league's secretary-general is expected to hold similar talks in Washington with a number of US officials.

The committee's delegation will include Moroccan Foreign and Co-operation Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Saud Al Faisal, who will join Klibi in the talks planned in New York and

Washington. Klibi, in a statement here last night, welcomed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's announcement to accept a ceasefire with Iran, describing Iraq's step as further evidence of Baghdad's keenness on reaching just and durable peace according to international law and in the interest of all people in the region.

The statement indicated that delegations of the Arab seven-man committee would be visiting permanent member-states of the Security Council to explain the Arab stance supporting a ceasefire, an end of the war and restoration of fraternal ties between Iran and all the Arab countries.

Last night, the Saudi foreign minister paid a brief visit to Baghdad during which he conferred with President Saddam on latest Gulf developments.

Press law awaiting approval

SHEIKH Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah, the Information Minister yesterday said that the long-awaited press and publication law is ready for enactment but is awaiting the cabinet's approval.

Sheikh Hamad, in a statement to a local daily noted that the draft law does not mean there will be restrictions on the freedom of the press or any undermining of its role.

The minister said censorship on publications is a necessity due to developments in the region noting that it does not harm any of these establishments.

Business in Canada

An export/import company in Ottawa, Canada welcomes inquiries from Kuwait to deal in any material, equipment, telephones, machinery, spare parts & any items of trading & communication equipment.

Write to: Sami International, 4, Parkside Crescent, Nepean, Ontario K2B3B5, Ottawa-Canada.

Physiotherapy hospital will be renovated

THE director of Sulabikhat Physiotherapy Hospital, Dr Abdul Raheem Al Zaid, said that the Ministry of Public Health will renovate wards of hospitals instead of building a new hospital as a cost-cutting measure.

He added that the ministry allocated KD27 million to build a physiotherapy hospital. However, work to renovate wards of the present hospital began in 1985 and has cost KD3 million.

The director said that the ministry will build a new outpatient facility to replace the present one

on an area of 10,000 square metres. The facility will contain all physiotherapy requirements, including swimming pools, a laboratory and a pharmacy. The ministry allocated KD1.6 million to the outpatient facility, he said.

Prefer

He added that a Kuwaiti family financed the construction of two wards at the hospital. One ward is designated for men and the other for children and contains swimming pools, games and treatment rooms. Construction of the two wards will begin shortly, Al Zaid said.

He pointed out that the hospital lacks sufficient physiotherapists and technicians. There is also a big demand for private rooms at hospitals, although authorities prefer patients to stay in open rooms, the director added.

Al Zaid said that the hospital co-operates with social welfare houses of the Ministry of Social Affairs in treating guests of these houses and provides treatment of patients who come from Yemen, Bahrain and Lebanon.

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He pointed out that the hospital lacks sufficient physiotherapists and technicians. There is also a big demand for private rooms at hospitals, although authorities prefer patients to stay in open rooms, the director added.

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Crisis looms large, say travel agents

OWNERS of travel agencies and tourist businesses have warned of a "Manakha crisis" similar to the stock market crash of 1982 — this time in the travel and tourism sector.

The owners said that this crisis is imminent unless the Aviation Law issued last year is fully implemented.

The law still to be applied concerns the rates of tickets and fines for violations, they added.

Business owners interviewed by a local daily criticised the General Directorate of the Civil Aviation for blocking or postponing implementation of clauses of the law.

Delay

Owners considered the delay in implementation of the law in full as a violation of the law because no other law was issued to permit officials to delay the application of any clause of the law, owners said.

They accused the directorate of being biased against travel agencies in applying only part of the law which protects consumers and not the travel agencies.

Owners claimed that they suffered huge losses during the year which threatens to bankrupt them. What adds insult to injury is "dishonest" competition, they said.

They claimed that the many notifications, circulars and other forms of warning issued by the directorate or by the Union of Travel Agencies, do not stop ongoing violations in the travel market.

They said there is insufficient legal organisation of the market. The owners also warned that the situation has reached a dangerous stage that requires immediate action by the Civil Aviation Directorate.

Fines

Abdulla Al Dami said that after the implementation of only one part of the Travel and Aviation Law, airlines have begun giving the same rate on tickets as travel offices.

He added that travel offices are facing another problem in the amounts of fines included in the implemented part of the law by not implementing the other part. Al Dami said that travel offices are asked to pay as much as KD500 for each unconfirmed reservation. Further, offices are required to pay KD5,000 as security to the directorate.

He said that licences of as many as 37 travel offices have been withdrawn recently after the implementation of the law which came into force at the beginning of this year.

Employing

He disclosed that his office pays KD8,000 monthly, including the salaries of employees. He said that airline companies now demand hundreds of thousands of Kuwaiti dinars from travel offices in the country and these offices cannot make good.

Al Dami said the only reason he is running his office is with the hope that the other part of the law will be implemented.

He said that some offices began employing students and some trainees to avoid losses. Airlines and their agents in the country do not co-operate with travel offices, he said.

Some agents stopped supplying air tickets to the offices because they can sell directly at higher rates and avoiding paying the commission to the offices, he said.

Mane Al Mane, who recently resigned as a member of the Board of Directors of the Union of Travel Agencies, stressed that contrary to popular belief of travel offices are not favouring any ticket price hike. All they want are fixed prices, he said. Another owner said the market is still full of "parasites". He added that some airlines compensate the loss in their flights by providing low standard meals.

Violate

For example, some of these "parasites" exploited the KAC decision to stop flights to Bangkok by raising the fares, he said. Some of them exploit the rush season and raise fares by as much as 400 per cent, he added.

He also said that there are still many airlines who violate the applied part of the law.

For example, KAC engages only 30 per cent of Kuwait-London route, while British Airways has another 40 per cent. The rest goes to airlines who have no connection with this route — a clear violation of the Aviation Law, he said.

US rules out payment of any reparations

WASHINGTON, Aug 7, (UPI): A senior State Department official has ruled out the possibility that the United States will make any legal liability payments in the shooting down of the Iranian Airbus, even if investigation shows that US personnel were at fault.

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, who is acting Secretary of State while George Shultz is travelling in Latin America, said on a US Information Agency Worldnet television broadcast to Europe: "We don't believe there is a legal liability. Further legal liabilities will not be justified."

The Iran Air Airbus was shot down over the Gulf July 3 by two missiles from the US Navy cruiser Vincennes, whose captain believed he was under attack from an Iranian warplane. According to the Iranian government, 290 people from seven countries died when the plane went down.

Initial reports from a Defence Department investigation said technicians in the cruiser's command information centre had made several crucial mistakes which resulted in the misidentification. The official US report has not yet been released and a

United Nations investigation is expected to be complete in about a month.

The US government has announced that it will offer compensation to the families of the Airbus victims, but it will not make any payments to the government of Iran.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, in congressional testimony released yesterday, said: "The damage caused in firing upon Flight 655 was incidental to the lawful use of force."

Families

Sofaer said: "The government of Iran should not have allowed gunboats to attack our vessels and aircraft. That government also should not have allowed a passenger airline to fly over a battle zone — especially when it was not equipped and prepared to respond to our Navy's repeated warnings."

"The commander of the USS Vincennes evidently believed that his ship was under imminent threat of attack from a hostile aircraft, and he attempted repeatedly to identify or contact the aircraft before taking defensive action. Therefore, the United States does not accept legal responsibility for this

incident and is not paying 'reparations,' a word which implies wrongdoing."

Sofaer said the US government has not determined how much compensation — known as "ex gratia" or "from grace" payments — will be given to the families. In past cases, such as the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty and the 1973 Israeli shooting down of a Libyan airliner, "ex gratia" payments ranged from about \$20,000 per person to approximately \$50,000.

Deficiencies

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials are complaining that the investigative report on the attack of the Airbus is taking "an easy way out" by emphasizing crew error and failing to address shortcomings in the Navy's shipboard Aegis air defence system.

A former senior Navy official with extensive Aegis experience said the Aegis-equipped Vincennes was "the wrong ship in the wrong environment."

Three Pentagon Aegis system specialists said that the half-billion dollar computer system has deficiencies that contributed to the confusion leading to the disaster. "The system has had its

problems and blaming people is an easy way out," a Navy official familiar with the report said.

A systems analyst knowledgeable about the Vincennes noted that the Aegis "is not able to identify hostile aircraft." Rather, he said, the Aegis is "mainly a radar that detects and acquires a target," friend or foe.

Data

The Aegis cannot identify the targets it picks up, these sources said.

The three analysts said the Aegis spews out so much data in a brief period of time that the crew has difficulty analysing and processing it in time to make intelligent decisions.

"There is simply too much stuff coming in too fast," one specialist said.

And in the case of the Vincennes, they said, the Aegis shipboard system was configured to meet the possibility of attacks by land-based Iranian Silkworm missiles — the predominant designated threat.

As a result, the system's sensors were not integrated to deal as effectively with the threat of fast-approaching aircraft, especially since the ship "is weak" in aircraft identification sensors, they said.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Testing Iran's credibility

TWO local dailies yesterday commented on Iraq's willingness to cease fire provided Iran agrees to hold face-to-face talks immediately after the truce. Both the newspapers said new Iraqi decision tests Iran's credibility.

Al Anba said: "If the Iranian leaders are really interested in ending the war and establishing a just and honourable peace, they only have to announce frankly and without misgiving their acceptance to start direct negotiations with Iraq after cessation of fire immediately."

Iraq has proved yet again its keenness on establishing peace in the region, the newspaper emphasised, pointing out that the Iraqi initiative will put an end to any tricks and uncover the Iranian intentions.

"Will Iran announce its acceptance, and be convinced that this is the only avenue for co-existence in the region?" the newspaper asked.

Meanwhile, the daily Al Qabas pointed out that the new Iraqi decision "threw the ball to the Iranian court, and placed Tehran before the world to say its word," for or against peace.

The new Iraqi initiative is only a test for the Iranian intentions but also uncover the "role of the big" in the game, the newspaper went on saying.

Iraq, backed by the Arabs, wants durable and honourable peace through the "only natural channel — direct negotiations," the newspaper asserted.

The Iraqi decision is in harmony with the international drive and with the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts, the paper said, noting that "there is no justification for the big to play on both ropes."

Cessation of fire cannot be fulfilled without price "... its price is peace," it concluded.

GULF PRESS

Create confidence

A United Arab Emirates newspaper today expressed optimism over peace prospects in the Gulf after Iraq dropped its demand for direct talks with Iran before a ceasefire.

The United Nations and the Security Council's permanent members should now shoulder responsibility to implement the ceasefire resolution 598 to bring about a just and comprehensive peace and guarantee the rights of the two parties, the Abu Dhabi-based Al Wahda said.

But it said that a halt of fighting should precede other steps to create confidence and prompt the two combatants to overlook the past chapter of destruction.

The paper said it hoped Iraq and Iran would go ahead with peace negotiations and place the interest of their people above all other considerations.

Peace is the only remaining alternative to save what is left of the two countries' potentials, it said.

Soil survey being conducted

THE Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries is conducting a comprehensive survey of the soil in different areas in the country to assess its suitability for agriculture, a local daily has reported.

"It added that about 6,000 acres have been surveyed so far, as a prelude to their being organised and distributed in the form of agricultural plots. An additional 10,000 acres have been surveyed in the Al Wafra area and some of the land has been distributed.

The survey process will also cover agricultural land annexed to governmental projects, in addition to the studies and research to be conducted for the

improvement of soil and the finding of solutions to the difficulties facing farmers.

The daily added that a working team from the authority was conducting experiments with fertilizers in the Al Wafra area in co-operation with the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Areas.

Deriving

Another experiment is being conducted on urea fertilizer in co-operation with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

There also have been experiments on deriving fertilizers from fisheries and on the treatment of sewage for agricultural purposes.

Soviet-Bahrain relations soon

ABU DHABI, Aug 7, (KUNA): Diplomatic relations are expected to be established during the coming few days between the Soviet Union and Bahrain, press reports said yesterday.

According to the reports, the foreign ministries of the Soviet Union and Bahrain are currently engaged in discussions to determine the day of announcing the joint step.

Daily Al Itihad published here quoted Soviet sources as saying that restoration of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia will be announced next October to coincide with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Riyadh and opening of the first airline service of the Soviet Aeroflot between Moscow and Jeddah in the same month.

"Canada Dry drinks promotion"



Canada Dry held its grand draw of 33 airlines tickets at the company's premises, in attendance of representatives from Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Commerce.

Results are as follows:

Waiting Nos.	Reserved	Winning Nos.	General Reserve Nos.
64655	61379	23802	58574
31126	12893	87006	29306
68898	56628	46211	24173
26170	35246	2821	23842
39040	52742	24628	68504
10596	7005	41519	26571
11756	11494	55641	6882
44802	45919	73838	59497
36211	21635	7979	69486
54202	63243	58354	43860
48854	3267	39438	51083
33251	67867	87658	
39053	10385	10196	
61352	50762	47483	
54330	53634	68771	
32559	38893	64802	
	49896		

The lucky winners and the reserve winners are kindly requested to contact Canada Dry Company of Tel. Nos. 4716905 - 4736222. Last date to collect the prizes is 15/9/88.

Congratulations to the winners.

INDIAN VIDEO

Touching the heart

By Elora Shehabuddin

"ALL I have to do is pout and you become utterly miserable; how will you cope if I get married?" daughter asks father when he suggests she finally explore the world beyond papa.

Hum To Chale Pardes starts off on a familiar note: the mother dies at childbirth, leaving her husband with the baby and under oath to never remarry. But then, rather than trailing off into a side-story, the film scrutinises the developing father-daughter relationship and its effect on others.

Shashi Kapoor gives one of his better performances as the doting father. Mandakini plays the daughter, Priya; she can't act but she does beautifully the sets and that's always useful as a contingency measure. In any case, her role doesn't require much — other than a few tantrums, dances and replays of the spoilt-brat routine.

Rajeev Kapoor seems to have developed into a mature actor. As Ajay, he portrays effectively the hurt and anger that he feels as his wife, Priya, tries to organise her life and balance her emotions between him and her father.

The scenes designed to show Priya's reluctance to start afresh with her husband may appear somewhat contrived but they serve their purpose.

Priya rushes off to check on her father when she finds out he has a headache... and neglects to take her mother-in-law to see a specialist about a kidney stone. So far, so good, and very effective. Then, Ajay comes home from work to find his mother sulking because she has missed her appointment. One cannot help but find discrepancies in the sorrowful tale of an otherwise independent and liberated woman who is unable to go to the doctor without her teenage daughter-in-law's help.

The film is refreshing in that no obscenities are hurled across the screen every three minutes. For those out there who lust for blood and gore, there is only one fight sequence; fortunately I suppose, Ajay, the mild-mannered businessman from London, dons his superhero cape in the nick of time. The fight has little bearing on the story other than prematurely putting an end to the couple's honeymoon.

With an uncluttered plot and cast, **Hum To Chale Pardes** is a touching movie and even die-hard cynics may find themselves blinking away stray tears.

Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani

A nasty mother, a son named Ram, a daughter-in-law called Sita, and a "Laxman jaysa" brother — shades of the great epic, eh? — make up the incredible family of **Ghar Ghar**

Ki Kahani. The venom-spitting mother is an important character, for all the misery and strife she creates, but Shashikala, a relic of the sixties, reduces the role to a comic one with her histrionics.

Rishi Kapoor plays Ram, whose blissful marriage turns shaky when circumstantial evidence convinces him his wife is messing around with his younger brother, Amar (Govinda). But Jayaprada seems destined to go through life playing the perfect wife and Ram's suspicions are groundless.

Amar adores his "bhabhi" — a "mother-friend" is the term he uses — but he would much rather serenade Asha (Farha) and rescue her from the evil clutches of, first, a careful of armed louts, and then, her own sister-in-law. The story isn't necessarily complicated but exploring the finer details in such a large family can be a lengthy process. To economise on time, I guess, the Amar-Asha courtship is confined to love at first sight and a song-and-dance number.

Keshar Rathod's screenplay, and Kader Khan's dialogue should incite few complaints even though the story is a little difficult to stomach: it takes an entire family about 30 years to overthrow a thoroughly rude and obnoxious matriarchal figure? True, even the French Revolution underwent a period of fermentation before 1789; yet when the revolution came, it was a long and bitter struggle. All Shashikala's husband (Kader Khan) has to do is pick up his walking-stick and thrash the evil out of her which takes, perhaps, all of five minutes. Something of an anti-climax.

The comedy scenes do manage to drag out some laughs, but then, so do Shashikala's never-ending tirades. **Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani** should do well in the field of light family entertainment.

Agni Sanket

This Bengali movie, directed by Arup Datta, deals with an old theme, today's political corruption and the ever-increasing distance between the country's leaders and the common masses, but in a novel manner.

An important political figure collapses and dies during a rally. The bespectacled gods above direct his spirit into that



Shashi Kapoor gives a particularly strong performance as the doting father in **Hum To Chale Pardes**.

of a dying "commoner," played by Soumitra Chatterjee. The latter recovers from his heart attack, filled with, shall we say, new life. He is disgusted and amazed as he experiences the societal evils created by the recently-deceased politician.

The story, by Sanjiv Chatterjee, explores a great many of today's harsh realities. The opening scenes are particularly graphic: footage of floods, famine and disease alternate with images of the lifestyles of the rich and famous. The film also stars Shatabdi Ray and Robi Ghosh.

Although this film was made about 30 years ago, it has only recently appeared on video in Kuwait. It stars Suchitra Sen and the late Uttam Kumar, perhaps the most popular on-screen couple of West Bengal. Indrani (Suchitra) is born into a rural family at a time when funds are particularly depleted — her father has channelled everything into starting a newspaper, and a daughter is an undesirable burden. Her father soon realises that it would be wiser to invest in his daughter's future and he educates her: it should make it "easier" to find a husband who won't "glamour" for a dowry. The newspaper doesn't last.

Indrani goes away to college in Calcutta, where she falls for her room-mate's brother, Sudarsan. She marries him des-

pite opposition from her father. Sudarsan is of a different caste and involved in research, that is, not gainfully employed. The Datta family, who extolled her to the highest heavens when she was only their daughter's roomie, turns against her after the wedding.

Indrani and Sudarsan leave the family home and she finds work. He doesn't — at first. When he does, the pay is meagre. Feeling useless, bored and threatened, he leaves.

Indrani is no weepy-eyed clinging female, even by today's exacting standards. She survives until they meet up again and start all over on a more equal footing. It is a good movie but does not compete with some of their better efforts, such as **Haram**, **Shoor**, **Pathe Holo Deri** and **Agni Pariksha**. Bengali films are not renowned for the quality of their video recording but this one is especially bad. Then again, the prospect of sore eyes and a splitting headache has never yet deterred a dedicated Suchitra-Uttam fan. If the story doesn't appeal to you, I strongly recommend the music. But I confess that's a very biased opinion: I am yet to recover from my childhood crush on Hemanta Mukherjee and "Shujoo dobar pala" is an old favourite.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel. 471-2900.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Good morning
- 9.30 Cartoons
- 10.15 Dawa li Hub: starring Mirvat Amin, Mustaf Fahmi, Iman Al Turki
- 11.15 Ala Dunya Al Salam: Arabic serial, starring Suad Abdullah, Hayat Al Fahd
- 12.15 Cultural film
- 1.30 Summer Clubs
- 2.30 Cartoons
- 3.35 Cartoons
- 4.15 1986 World Cup football match: Argentina vs. West Germany
- 7.10 Alwan
- 7.50 Holy Quran and Science: "The Plant World"
- 8.30 Cultural show
- 8.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Hussain: Arabic daily serial starring Samiha Ayoub and Saad Ardash
- 10.45 Arabic feature film: "Al Fanous Al Sahri" starring Ismail Yassin, Karimam, Abdul Salam AlNabalsi
- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.20 World today via satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown



The Equaliser strides into action on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Galat
- 6.30 The Craft of the Potter: In the final programme of the series, a potter, a

gallery-owner and a collector talk about their favourite pots.

7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and regional events.

7.30 The Duck Factory: "Way We Were": The studio's manager bumps into her ex-fiancee and pretends she is having an affair with a young man.

8.00 News in English

8.30 Miami Vice: "Walk Alive" Another tale of drug-trafficking at the holiday "paradise."

9.30 Private Benjamin: "Bye Bye Benjamin" Judy's father — with the full support of the comp leader — tries to convince his daughter to resume civilian life.

10.00 Hitchcock: "Stolen Heart" Who gets a transplant, the rich guy or the poor girl?

10.30 The Equaliser

11.30 News Summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



The Miami Vice Squad "Walk Alive" in tonight's episode, on KTV 2 at 8.30 pm.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

- 15 Peebles' Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0900 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by The Idea of Europe (ex 29th Time)
- 45 Without Strings
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press
- 15 Peebles' Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Where Angels Fear to Tread
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 The Stuarts (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 The Cross and the Crescent
- 45 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Where Angels Fear to Tread
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Peebles' Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by The Stuarts (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Health Matters (ex 8th and 29th Sportsweek)
- 30 The Ken Bruce Show
- 1200 Newsweek
- 15 Brain of Britain 1988
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes (ex 8th and 29th Recording of the Week)
- 45 (8th and 29th only) Sportsweek
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 The Third Policeman
- 1500 Radio Newsworld
- 15 The Stuarts (ex 1st and 8th Film of the Book)
- 45 English Songsmiths (ex 1st Clydesdale — The Early Years)
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 A Life at the UN (ex 22nd and 29th Whither Wisdom?)
- 30 The A-Z of Hollywood
- 45 The World Today
- 0700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Beethoven
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsweek
- 30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
- 1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
- 39 Stock Market Report
- 45 Peebles' Choice

FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin American Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 1900 Heiter Skelter
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Jazz Sound
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Music
- 0200 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behteren Quail
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Islamiyat, Daur-e-Hazir
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hamare Mehnat
- 2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Istiqlal Pharmacy
- Al Safat Square
- Al Sharq Al Jadid Pharmacy
- Al Safat Souk, opp. Science Museum
- Hawalli and Nugra
- Al Najat Pharmacy
- Block 63, Plot 6, Hawalli
- Salniya and Rumeithiya
- Al Nahdha Pharmacy
- Baghdad St.
- Fahahel and Ahmadi
- Bastour Pharmacy
- Al Dabbous St., Qais Al Ghanim Bldg., Fahahel
- Juleeb Al Shuyoukh
- Al Ayoub Pharmacy
- Shuyoukh Souk Complex
- Riqae
- Al Riqae Pharmacy
- Property of Badr Al Salem
- Al Ali No. 12
- Jahra
- Al Nour Pharmacy
- Al Mafati St., Abdul Aziz Al Nasrallah Bldg.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.46 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.29 pm
Maghreb	6.34
Isha	7.58

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

Tareq Rajab Museum

The museum in Jabriya houses a collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm. Sat thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

Kuwait Science Museum

The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Friday.

SOCIAL

Onam Festival

The Viswabarathi Theatres, Abbasia, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC President M. Mathews will be the chief patron. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese — 4314511; Thomas Perumilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Varghese Paradyil — 2422973.

Varca Sporting Centre

Varca Sporting Centre will organise an evening of games and entertainment at the Tent SAS on September 22, 1988. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Next of Kin. Further details later.

Y.M.C.A.

The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks will be in attendance.

Bangladesh variety show

Bangladesh children will present a variety performance in mid-September. The date and venue will be announced later. Those interested in taking part, please contact Jayati or Farzana.

Indian Independence Day

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India, August 15, there will be a flag hoisting ceremony at 8.30 am at Embassy premises, 34 Istiqlal St.

Indian Arts Circle

The Indian Arts Circle will stage a programme at 7.30 pm, Aug 15, to mark the end of a year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of India's independence. All Indians are cordially invited.

Summer Belle 88

The United Goans Centre will hold their annual Summer Belle 88 contest on August 11 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. The gala event marks the 10th anniversary of UGC. Entertainment includes music by Stepping Stones and City Limits. For further details contact Tony Gonsalves — 2612024 or Joe Fernandes 5655140.

Malayalam debate

A series of debates on Malayalam cinema are being held this month. The topics are: A discussion on the important creations of Malayalam cinema (Aug 12); the different stages of cinema production and its influence on entertainment (Aug 19).

The discussions will be carried out mainly in Malayalam. For information on time and venue, please contact Karun, 4814477.

D'Assisi Association

The association will hold a social evening-cum-variety show on August 11 at Messilah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9.30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909 (am) 3717346 (pm) or August on 5746754 after 6 pm.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

At Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at Viennese Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are ideal for a period of quiet relaxation.

On Wednesday, join the Sha-

hrazad barbecue at the pool-side; there will be games, prizes and surprises. On Thursday, enjoy music and food at the Arabian Night at the Al Andalus Supper club. Al Dana offers a special treat for children at the Friday brunch, open from 11 am to 3 pm.

Recreation facilities include squash and tennis courts, male/female gymnasiums with saunas, solaria, whirlpools, and massage and relaxation rooms.

At the Hilton

La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6.30 am to midnight.

At the Failaka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12.30 pm and 7.30-11.30 pm.

Ice-cream, cold drinks and this week's special coconut pie — are available at La Patisserie. Open daily 10.30 am - 10.45 pm.

At the Sheraton

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo is closed on Fridays.

At Hambra features authentic Lebanese cuisine every Sunday and seafood specialties on Wednesday nights; a sumptuous buffet is offered on Fridays. Live entertainment is provided by the Lords.

The Hunt Room offers a variety of meat and fish preparations at lunch and dinner.

Arab world specialties are available every Thursday evening at Le Tarbouche. A buffet lunch and dinner is offered on Fridays.

The Coffee Shop features a wide range of international cuisine and has a daily special.

At the Meridien

La Brasserie offers Friday brunch from 12 noon to 4 pm; also open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.

At the Continental

The Darbar offers a daily lunch buffet with a wide range of Indian kebabs and curries. A la carte for dinner.

At the Kuwait Plaza Hotel

The Al Dallah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini business lunch. Light snacks and ice-cream are available at the International Food Arcade; open 10.00 am to 11.00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

There is a Filipino Night every Sunday 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm; live entertainment provided.

At the Ramada

El Bender Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 12 midnight; a la carte also featured.

The take-away counter, opened daily from 4 pm to 11 pm, offers a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks.

The Lobby Lounge offers a selection of coffee, tea, juice, cakes and pastries.

SPORTS

15th Winners Cup

Cricket tournament The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open 15th Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning September. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the KOC ground, Ahmadi. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa, Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm.

Boy's Own Club

Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (October 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

Kuwait Nomads

Kuwait Nomads pre-season training starts Sunday August 7 at 7.30 pm. All are welcome. For details contact 5642599.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

The Running Man

Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Al Sahniya

Reserved for Al Jazira Theatre

Al Hamra

Hekayat Nus Million Jenai (Arabic)

Starring: Yahya Fakharani and Iham Shahin

Drive-in

Al Folous Wa Al Wohoush

Starring: Mohammed Subhi and Madiha Kamel

Al Firdous

Kunwara Baap (Hindi)

Starring: Sanjeev Kumar and Vinod Mehra

Fahahel Open-Air

Pighalta Asman (Hindi)

Al Fahahel

The Last Shark

Al Jahra

Roxanne

Granada

Wild Geese II

Starring: Edward Fox and Barbara Carrera

Satalkhat

Glitter Dome

Starring: James Garner and Margot Kidder

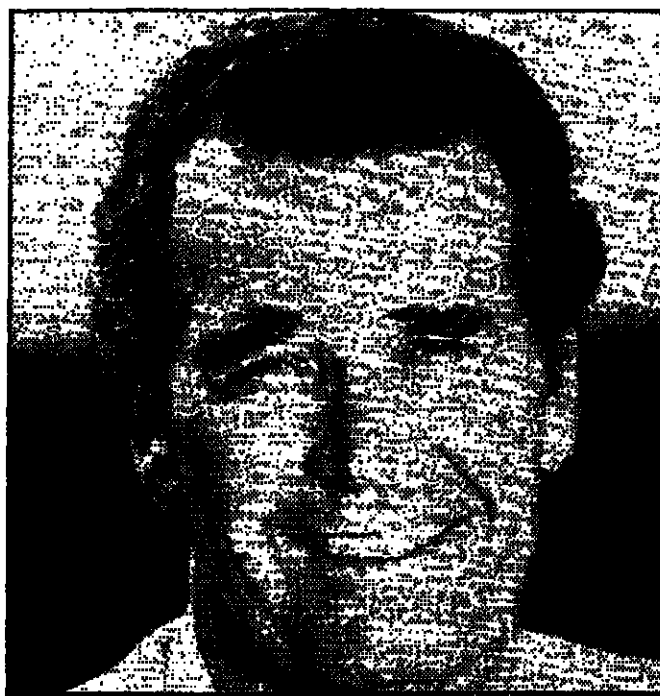
Al Jleeb

Mahan (Bengali)

Almadi Drive-In

Trancers (Future Cop)

Starring: Tim Thomerson and Helen Hunt



James Garner stars in **Glitter Dome**, an adaptation of Joseph Wambaugh's novel about a pair of LA police officers out to crack a film mogul's murder.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

In order to have good soldiers, a nation must always be at war — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general — statesman (1769-1821).

Baker will strengthen Bush campaign

By Michael Posner

WASHINGTON. (Reuters): Republicans are looking to outgoing Treasury Secretary James Baker to breathe new life into the struggling presidential campaign of Vice-President George Bush, who is lagging behind Democratic rival Michael Dukakis.

Bush's aides say there is nothing wrong with their organisation but Baker should provide extra muscle in the run up to the Nov 8 presidential election.

President Reagan, saying "if there ever was a Reaganite you're it," announced on Friday that Baker was resigning his treasury post to manage Bush's campaign from Aug 17 — the day Bush is due to be nominated for president by the Republican Party convention in New Orleans.

Baker will be succeeded as treasury secretary by New York investment banker Nicholas Brady.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk commented: "Jim Baker will bring needed adult supervision to the Bush for president campaign and I congratulate him on his appointment."

Crackdown

He urged Baker to crackdown on any Bush aides for "peddling false and damaging rumours about governor Mike Dukakis" to the media.

Bush has denied knowledge about any rumour spreading, an apparent reference to recent talk — denied by Dukakis — that the Democrat once had treatment for mental depression.

Bush's aides said that Baker, both a national and international figure, would be able to bring organisational skills and political experience to their effort to succeed Reagan in the White House.

He also will be able to give new direction to the campaign, often seen by analysts as floundering without focus.

Sheila Tate, Bush's spokeswoman, said Baker, who will carry the title "Campaign Chairman," would give new prominence to the presidential effort.

"He'll bring great depth and wisdom and experience and leadership," Tate said. "He's the vice-president's closest friend."

Central American peace plan stagnant

By Alister Doyle

TEGUCIGALPA. (Reuters): A year after Central American presidents surprised the world by signing a regional peace accord, their plan has stagnated as guerrilla wars in the region continue to push up a death toll that already exceeds 100,000.

But each of the five Central American nations wants to keep working for peace under the plan, agreed in the Guatemalan town of Esquipulas on Aug 7, 1987.

"I keep insisting on the Costa Rican model, that seeking solutions through negotiation and dialogue is the only solution to Central American problems," Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the author of the plan who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, said on Friday.

The plan has had some successes — hundreds of political prisoners have been released, democracy has been widely debated, talks between guerrillas and governments were held for the first time in Nicaragua and Guatemala and for the first time since 1984 in El Salvador.

Bleak

But all the talks have broken down and prospects are bleak of a negotiated end to any of the conflicts in the region of 23 million people.

"There is no peace in El Salvador, there is no peace in Guatemala, and in Nicaragua there have been no deaths for five months, but not as a product of a stable and negotiated ceasefire," Arias said.

Any remaining enthusiasm for the plan reflects more the lack of alternatives than a belief that the plan, dismissed last year by President Reagan as "fatally flawed," might suddenly work.

The five presidents had planned to meet on Aug 7 to review progress in the Esquipulas plan, but decided it was not worthwhile.

Under the original document, ceasefires in guerrilla wars,

In at least two recent opinion polls, Newsweek and the Wall Street Journal/NBC, Bush is trailing by 17 per cent since Dukakis's acceptance speech two weeks ago at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. A region-by-region poll of the nation showed Bush in trouble everywhere.

Behind

The Times Mirror/Gallup study of 8,421 people through July 24 showed Bush 10 points behind in every part of the nation, except the southeast where he trails by three.

Even the West, considered Republican territory, favours Dukakis in that survey which shows people associating themselves with the Democrats since the Iran-Contra scandal.

Mark Goodin, a spokesman for Bush, shrugs off the wide lead in the opinion polls, saying that Bush will take a big jump in the surveys after Republicans formally nominate him by acclamation in New Orleans.

That is seen as the jumping-off point in the campaign by Bush, who not only has been struggling in the opinion polls but has been kept virtually to his vice-president's desk, away from the campaign trail, by a cash shortage.

Since the Democratic convention, Dukakis has been attending to state business three days a week and has hit the road nationwide on extensive tours in an attempt to deliver on his pledge to bring competence to the White House.

Life

Former Bush spokesman Pete Teesley, now a senior adviser, said Baker would pump new life into the Bush campaign.

"He brings strong management skills," Teesley told Reuters. "He brings focus to the campaign in that he will run the campaign — there will be no misunderstanding."

Despite the glowing appraisals of Baker, the 58-year-old Texan brings a mixed record as a campaign manager, with more major losses than wins.

In 1970, Baker managed Bush's futile bid to move from the US House of Representatives, where he served for two years, to the Senate.

sweeping democratic reforms and an end to foreign backing for insurgents, such as US funding rebels, were due to be taken effect by Nov 5, 1987.

The deadline has repeatedly slipped.

Claws

"The plan has no claws as we military say. Honduras armed forces chief Humberto Regalado said on Friday: "It has no dispositive force to ensure compliance." Others fault the plan for not giving a more formal role to guerrilla groups.

Regalado blamed Nicaragua for the failure of the plan. Over the past year, the plan has focused increasingly on Managua's performance.

The other four countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — frequently criticise Managua but rarely each other.

Nicaragua is the only country where there is a prospect for an end to the fighting, but this is largely due to a suspension of US military aid in February.

The Contras are virtually paralysed without aid. A precarious ceasefire has been in place in Nicaragua since March 23, and peace talks between the two sides aimed at ending the war in which at least 40,000 have died collapsed in June.

Nicaragua has grown increasingly impatient with the peace plan, feeling it has made more concessions. Last month it said its tolerance had ended, expelled eight US diplomats and clamped down on the domestic opposition.

Accused

Nicaragua accuses the United States and Honduras of trying to scrap the peace plan.

The Reagan administration has adopted a dual attitude to the peace plan, both supporting it while culling for new military aid for the Contras. The US Congress is likely to vote next week on a humanitarian aid package for the rebels.

Tehran launches diplomatic offensive

Softer words winning Iran international acceptance

By John Baggaley

TEHRAN. (Reuters): A diplomatic offensive based on realism and softer words is winning Iran new international acceptance after years of isolation, diplomats in Tehran say.

"There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the moves to end isolation are not just temporary phenomena," said one foreign observer who has lived in Iran for eight months.

Diplomats said a flurry of new diplomatic links and ground-breaking visits showed an acceptance of Iran not seen since the 1979 siege of the American embassy, the eight years of war with Iraq, and charges that Tehran was involved in Lebanese hostage-taking.

"We have been waiting for long years to come to Iran to expand economic and other relations," said Renato Ruggiero,

Italy's foreign trade minister, shortly after he arrived with a 50-man delegation on Wednesday.

Next week Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden will come to Iran, the first such visit in nine years since the Islamic Revolution. Australia has also agreed to join any UN truce observer force if a ceasefire in the Gulf war is implemented.

Partners

Both these countries are major trading partners of Iran but the Tehran-based diplomats said the timing of the trips was significant beyond trade.

"It's not only the chances of increased trade if the war ends, but also the fact they feel the time is right to come that is interesting," one Western diplomat commented.

Italy is Iran's third largest trading partner after Japan and West Germany. Two-way trade totals \$1.4 billion, mostly in Iranian oil, according to the Iran

Economic Bulletin.

Contacts between Britain and Iran have also borne fruit and this week London said it would soon send a diplomat of at least first secretary level to Tehran.

Relations between the two plunged last year after an Iranian diplomat was accused of shoplifting and a British diplomat said he was assaulted. Britain recalled its last remaining diplomat.

But this week Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher acknowledged a personal preference for better relations with Iran, during a Gulf stopover.

The English-language Tehran Times on Monday wrote of speculation that Thatcher would fly, during visits to Oman and Bahrain, to have pressure exerted on Iraq to comply with UN ceasefire resolution 598.

"If this is truly the political strategy pursued by Britain, then Iran is indeed grateful to the UK,

the newspaper said.

Even the "great Satan" United States has held low level contacts with Iran through a third country.

One Iranian official told Reuters that Washington's condemnation this week of Iraq's use of chemical weapons was well received in Tehran.

One observer noted Iran's relatively muted reaction to the loss of the Iran Air plane and its 290 passengers, which the USS Vincennes shot down on July 3.

Castigate

A team from the International Civil Aviation Organisation visited Tehran on Thursday but the opportunity to castigate Washington passed by unused.

The softer line also showed up in a press interview Deputy Oil Minister Hossein Kazempour Ardebili gave on Tuesday. He said Iran was ready to sign an agreement with American oil

companies if US hostility ended.

A neutral Western diplomatic source said the Iranians appeared to have gained diplomatically as Iraq apparently blocked a UN ceasefire by insisting on direct talks, which Tehran deems unacceptable until a truce is in place.

"Iraq seems to have been making it easier for Iran to gain acceptance in diplomatic circles since Tehran is seen as ready for an unconditional truce," one source said.

Mistrust

Having accepted the year-old security council resolution, Iran has sent envoys abroad to push for a ceasefire in the face of Iraq's mistrust of its intentions.

Iraq accepted the resolution at the outset. Iran announced its agreement after a series of military defeats.

But even before Iran's announcement, its diplomatic activity signalled a change in

policy. France restored

diplomatic ties with Iran on June 16 after an 11-month break.

And Tehran received a British delegation to discuss hostages pro-Iranian militants are holding in Lebanon.

London-Tehran relations eased in June when the brother of a British businessman jailed on spying charges was told he could visit him.

But Iran's diplomatic drive has achieved little with states on its doorstep.

The seven-member Arab League Committee monitoring the war this week sided with Baghdad's call for direct talks and Iran has done nothing to hide its anger at influential Saudi Arabia.

It was easier for the West to accept Iran than it was for nearer states which felt threatened and regional acceptance of non-Arab Iran would be a long, slow affair, said one observer.



Foreign powers jockey for influence in Lebanese election

By Ghida Salaam

BEIRUT. (Reuters): Presidential hopefuls are rushing to the Syrian capital and roaming Maronite Christians Michael Khoury, Michel Edde, Rene Moawad, Suleiman Frangieh and Henri Steir.

They are among dozens of people regarded as contenders and no front-runner has emerged. Others have trooped around embassies to sound out their chances.

The 76 surviving members of the 99-seat parliament are due to choose a successor to President Amin Gemayel before his term expires on Sept 23.

"The Lebanese election is like a lottery. Once (Syrian President Hafez) Assad decides the winner, all members of parliament will endorse the decision," the government official said.

Syria's role was boosted by a resumption of negotiations this year between Damascus and Washington. The US enjoys wide influence among Lebanon's hardline Christians who are staunch opponents of Damascus, he added.

"By coysing up to Syria, the US has in mind broader strategic interests. It hopes to boost the chances of an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem," a political analyst said.

There was a common interest between Washington and Damascus to stabilise the situation in Lebanon but both countries

also imposed their own conditions, he said.

"The US has to recognise Syria's legitimate interests in Lebanon and curb Israel's ambitions. In return, Syria has to closely monitor and check the growing power of Islamic fundamentalism," the analyst added.

"The US cannot afford to totally ignore Lebanon. They have hostages here. Hijackings originate out of here," a Western diplomat said.

Profile

Syria's arch-enemy Israel has adopted a low profile in the election, in contrast to the powerful role it played after its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, a former cabinet minister said.

Syria and Israel seemed to alternate their involvement in the Lebanese elections. "In 1976, Syria chose its presidential candidate, Elias Sarkis. In 1982, it was Israel's turn. Six years later, it is Syria's turn again," he added.

Israel is widely regarded as having arranged the election of Bashir Gemayel in 1982 but he was assassinated before he could take office.

His brother Amin was chosen in his place.

Syria's strategic ally, Iran, is a key player on the Lebanese stage. It operates in Lebanon through Hezbollah which commands a huge following among Lebanon's 1.2 million Shi'ite community.

France settling down to cool centrist rule

By William Echikson

PARIS. France is settling down to cool centrist rule.

After his sweeping re-election in May, President Francois Mitterrand might have been expected to push through major initiatives. But in June, the voters refused to give the President's Socialists or any other party an absolute majority in parliament.

So the President is refraining from any grand promises or ambitious reforms, and instead is stressing down-to-earth schemes for improving schools and public housing.

"Francois Mitterrand's re-election forcefully signalled that a more efficient and more just France now depends on political reconciliation," explained Michel Rocard, the new pragmatic prime minister in his first speech to the National Assembly earlier last month. "My priorities are not going to be those of one half of France against the other half."

Top-ranking officials at the presidential Elysee Palace see themselves taking part in a worldwide trend away from grand designs and toward pragmatic problem solving. Except for British leader Margaret Thatcher, "West European" conservatives such as West Germany's Helmut Kohl lack ideological fervor, and hard conservatism is fading even in the United States, as Ronald Reagan makes way for presidential candidates Michael Dukakis or George Bush. The Mitterrand advisers don't expect a radical new leftism to emerge either, in the US, France, or anywhere else.

Balancing

"Socialism these days is trying to balance economic efficiency and modernization with social cohesion," one adviser says. "It's a balancing act, not creating a new utopia."

In France, this balancing act means transforming what used to be quasi-monarchical system into one of checks and balances. Ever since Charles de Gaulle founded the Fifth Republic three decades ago, he gave the presidency wide powers to rule by decree. Parliament was reduced to little more than a rump.

The Gaullist system was a reaction against the revolving-door parliamentary governments which afflicted France before and after World War II. It offered strong presidential government at the cost of polarizing French politics between right and left. Gaullists dominated the conservative majority, the communists

pushed the opposition leftward, and no place was left for centrist parties.

Now, with no clear parliamentary majority, the centrist could play a crucial new role. A new group called the Union of the Centre has attracted 41 deputies, including former Prime Minister Raymond Barre who sounds daily more and more friendly to the Socialists. Barre desires to form a party that would serve as a pivot between right and left like West Germany's Free Democratic Party.

Opposition

"I refuse to practice systematic opposition," Barre said on a television program. "It is always necessary to do things which teach good lessons."

Although the centrist refuse to enter a formal coalition agreement with the Socialists, an informal arrangement is emerging. Barre helped negotiate recent landmark accord over the troubled territory of New Caledonia between pro-French European settlers and independence-seeking Melanesians. The compromise calls for the two adversaries to split responsibility for local government: to delay a decision on outright independence until a referendum can be held in 1988.

Another sign of an emerging centre-left coalition came in the formation of Rocard's new government. Although the key posts of finance, foreign affairs, defense, and interior remain in Socialist hands, half of the Cabinet, 23 ministers in all, are either members of other parties or have no party affiliation.

Renationalize

At home, Mitterrand makes no mention of renationalizing the five industrial groups and seven banks privatized by the conservatives. The two specific economic proposals are to create a guaranteed minimum income of 350 to 450 million francs for up to half-a-million poverty-stricken unemployed, and to restore a mild wealth tax on personal assets of more than 700,000 francs. Neither measure scares businessmen.

"We're not thrilled with more taxes and higher wages, but this certainly represents no radical programme," says Laurent Ciceron of the French Employer's Association. "It could have been much worse."

Some uncertainty remains. Orthodox Socialists want a stricter wealth tax and a stronger stimulus for economic growth. Such policies scare the centrist, who threaten to swing back to their traditional conservative allies.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

China puts brakes on reform programme

By Jane McCartney

BEIJING. (UP): China has put the brakes on the government's troubled capitalist-style reform programme because of concerns over economic problems and fears of rising social unrest.

An unprecedented failure of the annual leadership meeting last week because of sharp differences over the next crucial steps in economic policy has unleashed deep divisions and confusion within the Communist Party.

The summer strategy sessions in the northern beach resort of Beidaihe abruptly broke down after only two weeks. The failure left top officials unsure how to proceed with senior leader Deng Xiaoping's 9-year-old bid to reduce rigid Soviet-style central planning by melding capitalist-type economic measures with Marxist ideology.

China is entering waters as yet uncharted by any other communist regime.

Corruption

For the past year, senior Chinese leaders have admitted that the reform programme has struck "stormy seas" but called for specific changes, such as removing agricultural subsidies or cracking down on corruption.

Now, however, the Beidaihe breakdown is the first public indication that the problems are even more serious, requiring, in the eyes of some Chinese economists, actions that strike at the bedrock of a communist system, including ending state ownership of certain sectors of the economy.

That heresy was rejected out of hand at the meeting.

"It seems these economists want capitalism," one source said.

So, for a while at least, the brakes have been applied to reform as the experts return to the drawing board to find strategies more acceptable to the divided politicians.

Mission

Officials at the failed meeting made a rare admission that there was "heated debate" over the key issue of removing price controls to let prices reach market levels, a la capitalism.

The meeting broke down over concerns of more conservative elements that the speed and scope of such changes are undermining orthodox Marxism and breeding social upheaval.

Some Chinese economists have said privately that Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang's zeal to accelerate change has not been accompanied by a co-ordinated game plan and has destabilized the economy.

Attempts this year to lift a few price controls spawned double-digit inflation, a widening gap between rich and poor, official corruption and rampant black marketeering.

Prices

Rumours of rising prices are rife and the legendary lines are longer than ever in Beijing stores as anxious consumers stock up with pounds of salt and matches by the thousand — enough to last them a lifetime.

Popular protest is a real fear among party officials aware that social upheaval could seriously destabilize their leadership. Incidents such as a police clash with 1,000 peasants in a hamlet near Beijing in June and a violent riot by football fans in central Sichuan province in May have fed this concern.

But even then leaders seem to realize that China has little option except to push ahead and float prices. The alternative — rolling back the whole reform — would be too destabilizing to contemplate.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1549 — France declares war on England.
- 1567 — Duke of Alba arrives in Netherlands as military governor with 10,000 veteran Spanish and Italian troops.
- 1570 — Peace of St Germain-en-Laye ends third civil war in France, whereby Huguenots gain greater concessions; Turkish forces sack Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1583 — British sea forces under Sir Francis Drake destroy Spanish armada in battle off France.
- 1647 — Irish forces are defeated by British parliamentary forces at Dangan Hill in Ireland.
- 1815 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte sails for St Helena to spend remainder of his life in exile.
- 1832 — East India Company under William Bentinck annexes Cuthar after residents ask for British protection.
- 1940 — Germany begins concentrated bombing of Britain in World War II.
- 1953 — United States and South Korea sign mutual defence treaty.
- 1960 — United Nations demands evacuation of Belgian troops from Congo.
- 1964 — Turkish planes attack Cyprus.
- 1965 — City of Singapore withdraws from Federation of Malaysia and becomes independent state.
- 1986 — Car bomb explodes in busy shopping street in Muslim west Beirut, killing 17 people and wounding 84.
- 1987 — Sri Lanka releases 291 jailed Tamils and sends them home via Indian naval ship under peace accord calling for amnesty and arms surrender.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

By Paul Anderson

HONG KONG (UPI): For the southern Chinese, the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of Aug. 8, 1988 is generating excitement and expectation. It's the day of four eights.

Southerners generally are regarded as the most superstitious of the Chinese people. For them, eight is the luckiest number, and many see today's combination of four eights—the eighth day of the eighth month of 1988—as a harbinger of extraordinary good fortune.

Even skeptics could hardly fail to be impressed that such an auspicious day falls in the year of the dragon. The dragon, supreme among the animals in the Chinese zodiac, is the symbol of good fortune and luck, as well as royalty.

Luck associated with the number eight comes from its pronunciation in Cantonese, and other southern Chinese dialects—“baat”—which rhymes with “faat,” the word for fortune or prosperity.

Such a connection may seem at best tenuous. But faith in lucky numbers or symbols is widespread among the southern Chinese, and for them there could be no luckier combination than a string of eights.

Hong Kong textile magnate Law Ting-Pong found the lure

Hong Kong Chinese expect good luck on the day of four eights

Births, marriages, lotteries are all expected to generate good fortune today, 8-8-88, the 'luckiest day of the decade.'

of a single-digit 8 on an auto licence plate so strong that he paid more than \$640,000 (\$5 million Hong Kong) for one at a transport department auction in February, earning a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

On a lesser scale, many of Hong Kong's 5.5 million people are devising plans to ensure that 8-8-88 will be their lucky day.

The hopes of most rest with the Hong Kong lottery, known as the Mark Six. It is holding a special draw at 8 p.m. today, adding a bonus of \$3,888,888 Hong Kong (\$498,575) to the regular first prize money, which is determined by the number of tickets purchased.

"I'm buying the Mark Six," said one civil servant when asked what he was doing for the lucky day. "I don't really

believe in all that, but you never know."

Chinese are famous around the world as gamblers and there is little doubt that the lottery will have a record day today.

Another way of ensuring good fortune is to schedule important events for a lucky day.

The marriage registry office said 278 couples had scheduled their nuptials for the auspicious day.

"It's a very big day for marriages," said department spokesman Stephen Chan. "On the average Monday, only 121 couples get married."

One obstetrician said several patients whose babies were due in early August have inquired about inducing labour so the child can be born Aug. 8.

The Bank of China, whose

massive new headquarters will soar over the Hong Kong skyline, hoped to be far enough along in construction to open some of the lower floors of the I.M. Pei-designed skyscraper Aug. 8.

But lady luck was not with the bank and the People's Republic of China has been forced to abandon the opening—which they now deny was ever planned.

A similar fate befell the colony's new light rail transit system. A rash of accidents during recent test runs forced an undetermined delay in the gala ribbon-cutting scheduled for Monday.

To keep all the hoopla in perspective, it must be noted that today would not be a special day at all if Hong Kong did not follow the Western calendar.

In the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, Monday is the 25th day of the sixth month, which has no special significance.

But many new businesses are scheduling openings Monday, including one that doesn't plan to keep its customers.

The new monthly magazine "Emigrant" is aimed at the thousands of people planning to leave Hong Kong to seek their fortunes overseas before Britain hands the colony back to China in 1997.

Film gives rise to controversy

Hollywood holy war on Christ film

By Ivor Davis

MARTIN SCORSESE'S film *The Last Temptation of Christ* will not be released in the United States until September 23. Only a few people have seen it but already it has stirred up a holy war, with the skirmishes becoming uglier by the day.

So far, the Beverly Hills of Mr. Lew Wasserman, chairman of the board of the powerful MCA parent company of Universal Pictures, has been picketed by the followers of a fundamentalist Baptist pastor.

Among them was a man depicting a bloodied Christ, carrying a cross and suffering the lashes of another man, wearing a business suit and glasses representing a studio executive not unlike Mr. Wasserman.

Unfolded

While this pageant unfolded, a light plane flew overhead trailing a banner reading: "Wasserman fans Jew-hatred with Temptation". (Mr. Wasserman and the president of MCA, Mr. Sydney Sheinberg, are both Jewish). Members of the Jewish Defence League,

who held a counter-demonstration, said the crowd was chanting: "Jewish money, Jewish money."

Another Baptist minister has offered to raise \$10 million (£6 million) to buy the film from Universal and destroy all the prints, asking: "Isn't that enough money for the blood and suffering of Christ?"

The National Council of Christians and Jews has publicly deplored the anti-Semitic turn that the protests have taken, and what they called "the all too familiar scapegoating of Jews." The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, Mr. Roger Mahoney, who admits that the Church may well find the film "morally offensive," called Mr. Wasserman "a man of the highest integrity."

Scorsese, who once wanted to become a priest, has been trying to bring this story, adapted from the novel by the Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis, to the screen for years.

The script is by Paul Schrader, the product of a fundamentalist Protestant background in the Midwest, and

known for his forays into controversial material such as teen pornography in *Hard Core* with George C. Scott, and political assassination in *Taxi Driver* with Robert de Niro. Willem Dafoe (of *Platoon* fame), plays Jesus, Barbara Hershey is Mary Magdalene, and Harvey Keitel plays Judas Iscariot.

Religious critics who say they have seen early versions of the screenplay call it "a blasphemous attack on the Christian Church," alleging that the film depicts a frightened "wimp" of a Jesus, a deranged individual driven by lust who fantasizes about making love to Mary Magdalene, telling her: "God sleeps between your legs."

In one sequence, he tells his followers: "Here, take my heart," rips it out of his chest and hands it to them.

Universal Studios are hitting back at the critics, however. In an advertisement, in the form of a letter addressed to Mr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, which ran as a full page in the Hollywood trade papers and Los Angeles and New York newspapers, it rejects his

offer to purchase the film, explaining it would "threaten the fundamental freedom of religion and self-expression promised to all Americans under the Constitution."

Such freedoms, the letter adds, protect us all. They are precious. They are not for sale. The company also arranged a private screening in New York to which it invited selected religious leaders.

The fundamentalists declined, but some 30 others, including the Episcopal Bishop of New York, the Most Rev. Paul Moore, attended.

He said: "Overall, I had a very, very positive reaction. I saw nothing blasphemous in it."

If an initial survey of film distributors across the country is any indication, theatres are quite prepared to shun the picture if the controversy continues. A representative of a chain of theatres in the Midwest affiliated with Universal Studios admitted that even the studio was not putting pressure on its distributors to show the film. "Who wants to fight all of Christianity over one film?" he said.

Jungle animals killed to satisfy rich gourmets

By Janet Midwinter

LION steaks and elephant casseroles have become the "in" thing for affluent gourmets dining out in some of America's trendiest restaurants.

Also prominent on the menu are hippopotamus, gaffe and ostrich.

The fast-growing trade has been condemned by wild life organisations—but suppliers claim the business is entirely legal because the animals are not endangered species.

Demand is so high that some entrepreneurs are breeding jungle livestock at secret farms just for the dinner table, and they will slaughter animals to order.

New York Chef Jeffrey Nathan says his game menu is very popular and his specialties include camel cutlets, sweet and sour ostrich stew, and Sze-

chuan snake.

To put conscience-stricken diners at their ease, he tells them: "We, too, are concerned with the protection of wildlife. We do not feature endangered species."

"Our more exotic meats come from reserves whose express purpose is to raise animals for consumption and entertainment."

Nathan's restaurant, the New Deal, in New York's trendy Soho, gets its supply of exotic animals from specialist farmers in the Midwest—but he prefers not to name them.

He said: "Let's say I raise 12 ostriches and eight are pretty and the rest are not so good looking, then they might sell them as food. It's the same if someone raised 15 lions and they sell 10 to zoos. They have to do something with the other five."



Zebra and lion: the 'in' thing for affluent diners in America

One of the companies supplying game meats and gourmet delicacies is Polarica of San Francisco. Company vice-president Mitch Niayesh said some farms domestically raise big game for them, but he will not name his sources and claims they change frequently.

Niayesh said zebras are one of the scarcest items. He gets between 25 and 50 lions a year but could sell more.

Founder of the Night Bird supply company of San Bruno,

California, Gerald Proلمان, said most of their items, including grouse and salmon, were imported from Scotland.

His company has a 55,000-acre buffalo ranch in Wyoming to provide fresh meat to outlets.

Busy cooks who want to order for home dinner parties can do so by telephone. A few pounds of alligator meat or whole skinned and gutted rattlesnake, can be delivered anywhere in the United States the following morning.

Turin Shroud 'may be a fake'

By Andrew Morgan

AN American clergyman present at carbon-dating tests on a piece of the Turin Shroud implied recently that the material had been shown to be a fake.

The Reverend David Sox, an Episcopalian living in London, witnessed tests last week at Zurich University.

Mr Sox, who has written books sceptical of the shroud, said on the Sunday Programme on BBC Radio, "I think a lot of people will have a lot to answer for."

Other tests on the shroud are due to start at Oxford University next week.

Tests at the University of Arizona have been completed.

The three universities were also sent two pieces of ancient linen so that academics would not know which had come from the shroud, which is believed to have covered Christ after the crucifixion and is held at Turin Cathedral.

Mr Sox said that he was surprised how easy it was to tell the sample from Turin, which several authors have claimed unequivocally to be from the time of Christ.

He said most people were expecting "nothing less than the real." However, critics



An artist's impression of Jesus Christ after the crucifixion.

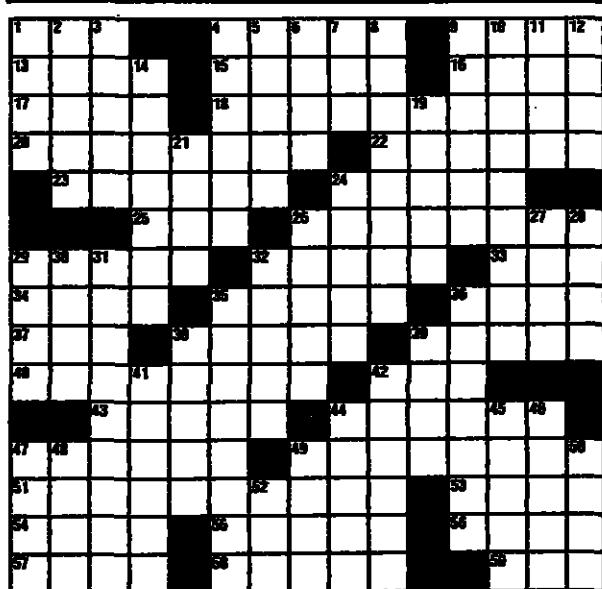
believed that the shroud would prove to be one of many fakes produced in northern Italy in the fifteenth century.

Mr Ian Wilson, author of *The Turin Shroud*, said: "Obviously, if the three centres

show a date that is medieval or later, then I recognise that we have to look hard for the hand of an artist.

Results of the tests, to be collated at the British Museum, are expected in October.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | Lat. abbr. |
| 1 Young one | 1 Forbidden | 28 Letter opener |
| 4 Muslim woman of high rank | 2 Sunday closings? | 29 Choreographer |
| 9 Fast-talking | 3 Bowler | 30 Vex |
| 13 Iowa college town | 4 Sideshow employee | 31 Alop |
| 15 Valuable violin | 5 Post Dickinson | 32 Singer John |
| 16 California rockfish | 6 Donated | 35 Southwestern laborers |
| 17 Memorable actor—Lahr | 7 Shoshonean | 36 Big shots |
| 18 Fishing spots | 8 Reflected | 38 Boxer or pug |
| 20 Open, in a way | 9 Highway equipment | 39 See 1 Down |
| 22 Artificial coloring | 10 Aid program of World War II | 41 This—(choice) |
| 23 New South Wales capital | 11 Black | 42 Tiny moths |
| 24 River to the Rhine | 12 Second or third | 44 Play part |
| 25 Loc. of 24 | 13 Coed | 45 "Gay": historic plane |
| 26 Conifers | 14 Defeats | 46 Lean |
| 29 Bishop's cat | 15 11th cen. English king: | 47 "MASH" star |
| 32 Liar and Hamlet | 16 Trumpeter | 48 Opera favorite |
| 33 Natives of Paray | 17 Davis | 49 MP's problem |
| 34 Split | 18 Smithy | 50 Snick-or— |
| 35 Revealed | 27 And others: | 52 Southern Constellation |
| 36 Peter or Paul | | |
| 37 North Pole worker | | |
| 38 Naval pens | | |
| 39 Carols | | |
| 40 Trim | | |
| 42 Cleaning tool | | |
| 43 Standing | | |
| 44 Scorchers | | |
| 47 South Carolina river | | |
| 49 Explanations | | |
| 51 Retreater | | |
| 53 High time of day | | |
| 54 Concept | | |
| 55 University of Maine site | | |
| 56 Wild plum | | |
| 57 Biting | | |
| 58 Holiday events | | |
| 59 Copy | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ROBS MAC STUNG
IGLU HALO CANOE
ARAP ORANGEROWL
TEC LAX TONS
ASKFOR RIVE YIIP
WRAY ENE DELA
IDIOT SPUR ELIS
REDWHITEANDBLUE
ICON SEAL ATOMS
SOWS ART STOW
HRS RBIS CURSES
HEEL SAM TRA
GREENLIGHT TOOT
BERAT ZOOS ANDY
SCOTS ETE JEER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TUNE THOSE LITTLE GRAY CELLS

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 2
♥ K 10 5
♦ K 10
♣ K Q 9 6 3

WEST
♠ 4
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 9 8 6 5 4 2
♣ J 10 5

EAST
♠ A 6
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ A Q J 7 3
♣ A 8

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 3
♥ A Q J
♦ Void
♣ 7 4 2

The bidding:

East South West North
1 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠
Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

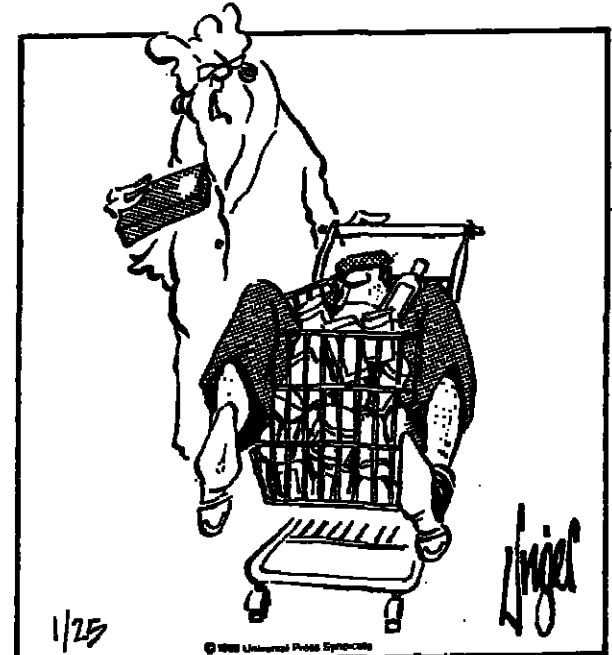
Once in a while you will see an expert declarer make the sort of play that would convince an ordinary mortal that he had to have peeked at the cards. Invariably, however, there is a good reason for his play. Consider this hand.

Since his king of diamonds was unlikely to be of any value offensively, it would have been wiser for North to double five diamonds rather than bid on. But then we would have been deprived of the opportunity of watching some spectacular declarer play.

Declarer covered the nine of diamonds with the king and ruffed away East's ace. The king of trumps lost to the ace, and declarer ruffed the diamond return. The last trump was drawn, and that left only the club suit to handle.

The normal way to play this particular club combination would be to hope that West holds the ace and to lead twice toward the king-queen. However, declarer had good reason to suppose that the ace was with East. Not only had that worthy opened the bidding, but he also had doubled five spades, an action he was unlikely to have taken with only two aces and no king. If the ace of clubs was backed by either the ten or the jack, there was no way the contract could succeed—two tricks in the suit would have to be lost. The only hope was to find both the jack and ten with West.

Suited the word to the deed, declarer led a club and, when West followed low, inserted the table's nine. When that fetched the ace, declarer claimed the balance. Note that, had West split his honors, declarer would have made the contract by returning to hand and repeating the finesse.



"If you're that tired, why didn't you stay at home?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You will be able to do something practical and positive. You are liable to lose interest in something that is still not finished, so beware. Leave yourself with enough time for your personal life. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You will have to watch out for someone who is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. You should not allow things to fall behind. Nor should you just hope for the best. Be loyal.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You will tend to be a little on the nervous side so try harder to keep out of trouble. Something upon which you have embarked will make excellent progress. You should not allow a hobby to become too engrossing. Be reliable.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You will be able to do something of which you thought you were not capable. You should not try to use force where charm has failed. You should not exaggerate or exceed the limits of propriety. Be magnanimous.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>You will be better able to face the facts. You should not place too much faith in your intuitions just now. Watch out for mistakes your own too. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)</p> <p>There is no reason why you should not continue to have faith in yourself. Something you have been meaning to do you have now left too late. You should spend more time with your children. Be objective.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>You will tend to be rather vulnerable so try not to expose yourself. Venus' better influence will help you to make up your mind. You should not allow yourself to think too much of the past. Be generous.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)</p> <p>You should not allow yourself to be intimidated. Things are not quite as you would wish them to be but you will be able to face up to the facts. You must avoid going on a spending spree. Be less impatient.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>Something you have been doing will show better results than you had hoped for. Others will be better disposed towards you. You will have to watch where you are going more carefully today. Be generous.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)</p> <p>You will know what to do in the circumstances. Do not allow anyone to try to steal your glory but do not think too highly of yourself.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>You will find more sympathy from someone you did not think was particularly well disposed towards you. You should not allow yourself to lose your temper.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You should try to show a little more goodwill towards others. You are rather too liable to lose sight of your objectives. Avoid allowing yourself to be distracted. Be sincere.</p>



Never mind what the maps say, New Orleans is not in any real sense American. Climatically, temperamentally, ... its deepest bond is with the Caribbean.

By Nik Cohn

LOUISIANA, A DREAM STATE: the bumper-sticker says it all. New Orleans is less a place than a narcosis and, like any other opiate, its stock-in-trade is illusions.

Prime among these is what locals call GOES, as in Garden Of Eden Syndrome. For upwards of a century, generations of tourist-trappers have been refining the myth of the City That Care Forgot, in which New Orleans is reduced to a glorified theme park, a series of stock happy-snaps — Mardi Gras, the French Quarter, Bourbon Street strippers flaunting topless on lacework balconies, jazz bands parading behind streetcars, steamboats adrift upon the muddy Mississippi. Paste all the clichés together and you have the complete. Big Easy, a moveable clipper that fleeces some \$2.2 billion from rubberneckers yearly.

For the natives, however, the picture is quite otherwise. Few ever venture within the Quarter except to work there. In truth, very few can afford to. Conventioneers may go swilling through a gumbo of conspicuous spending and more conspicuous debauch, but the daily mass reality — especially among the black 57 per cent — is of want. Statistically, this is among the very poorest cities in America, perennially a leader in the unemployment stakes, likewise in crime and disease, with some of the most noisome slums west of Naples. Desire, these days, denotes no streetcar but a "project", the unspeakable Bricks, in which 8,575 souls, 8,564 of them black, lie at rot.

And yet, for all the bitters, the magic endures, inviolate. My friend Willie Pastrano, once light-heavyweight champion of Planet Earth, now a retired villain and all-purpose bar-stool sage, has christened it Le Mal Doux, this sweet sickness; and nobody seems to linger long without succumbing.

In my own case, there was not even a struggle. It is now 16 years since I first passed through on what I fondly believed was a one-night stand. Addiction was instant and absolute, and I've never tried to kick it. For this is my natural homeplace: the weather suits my clothes.

What makes the sickness so sweet? The main symptoms are languor, ease, driftage; an animal content. Like a fat cat at purr, one simply surrenders to the steam-heat and the humidity, the scented bayou somnolence, the music, the bottomless oceans, the food — sweet suffering mother of us all, that food!

There is also the physical beauty. Away from the Quarter, which is doubtless picturesque but also a zoo, one moves everywhere through a southern dreamscape, indecent in its loveliness: backstreets riotous with azalea and oleander, magnolia, tea-olive, jasmine; gargantuan live-oaks hung with greybeard Spanish moss; clapboard Creole cottages, called shotgun and camelbacks, of every known and unknown tint; elevated Golgothas, the Cities of the Dead; colonnaded Grecian mansions, inshack backwaters; and always, somewhere in back, the great slow-rolling river, Father of Waters. "One tough act to follow," as Willie Pastrano says. "And that's not whistling Dixie."

Indolence comes courtesy of the climate. New Orleans built on marshland, sits some feet below sea-level and that's exactly how it feels, like living underwater, enwombed in soup. Drowning in the swamp smells,

America's banana republic

one doesn't breathe air so much as concentrated Essence of Miasma.

The light is filtered amber and rose, as if strained through a shade-glass window, and the streets seem to float on heat. Damp sucks out the marrow from one's bones, all sinew from the will. Then nothing is left but a beatific wallowing: "Dumb pursuit of pleasuring," Willie calls it. "Even the mosquitoes snore."

Not that said pleasuring is all easy greasy. Far from it. Self-indulgence in New Orleans is cultivated as a fine art, a vocation, only to be mastered by practice, practice, practice. From November through May, the only months which permit of human stirring, hardly a night slips away without some musical that can't be missed, nor any week without its own street festival.

The musical climate defines the romance with illusion, aforesaid. Decades of documentaries and most earnest treatises have taught that New Orleans, Birth Place of Jazz, remains its living shrine. In reality, however, this is a tale told strictly for trippers. Outside of hotel lobbies and Bourbon Street deadfalls, traditional Dixieland is now confined to Preservation Hall, a French Quarter cabaret cum mausoleum, where toothless memorialists quaver forth the good old ones for gaggles of pilgrim Europeans.

In fact, the city's truest music, as it's been these last 40 years, is rhythm and blues. Known as Cabbage Alley or Fatback, on account of its trademark 2/4 backbeat, the Crescent City style can best be absorbed at the annual Spring Jazz Fest, a megathon that features cajun zydeco, latin salsa, Tex-Mex, rockabilly, the blues — every downhome genre, in fact, but New Orleans jazz.

Over the last decade, local R&B has lost many of its greatest masters. Professor Longhair, James Booker, Chris Kenner and Lee Dorsey are all dead. Still the backbeat struts righteous, the flame is very much alight. At Winnie's Lounge, a neighbourhood black bar, such stalwarts as Earl King, Jessie Hill and Ernie K-Doe come together every Sunday night, crunched together on a bandstand the size of a welcome mat, there to wait until first light.

Still, it's on the streets, not in any clubs or confinements, that New Orleans pleasuring attains its apotheosis. Nowhere else that I know of, not even Rio de Janeiro, carries hedonism so deep in its blood and bone. If you have it, flaunt it, is only half the message. And if you don't, flaunt it harder, is the rest.

It is, above all, a city of transformations; of self-inventions. In a reality so raw and impoverished masquerades are a needed release: "Lies, the best revenge," as Willie Pastrano says.

Any degree of meanness may be eluded, at least temporarily, by donning the right disguise. Small wonder then that Proteus, lord of chameleons, was among the first of Mardi Gras godheads, or that the Quarter has become a transvestite Shangri-La.

The jamborees and parades are numberless. Most of them

pretence. Its masquers were turned loose to act out whatever fantasies they might most deeply crave, to purge them for Lenten austerities. But somewhere the point went astray. Increasingly gobbled up by commercial greed, carnival has been reduced to an exercise in gross-out. Now every year more than 100,000 aliens descend in a plague-host and, while residents flee for their lives, the central city is abandoned to Visigoths, with TV crews and admen pursuant.

The built-in frivolity, at least in part, is a response to history. From the moment of its 1718 founding, New Orleans was marked out for a most mighty destiny. Its early rulers — French, Spanish and, after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, American — conceived it as the lode-star of the south: "Nothing short of some dreadful

ern town, more driven, less deeply Catholic, might have pursued, the Louisiana defence was simply to shrug. Irony, self-mockery were more its style than woe; where loss could not be overcome, it had better be embraced. What lesson was learned? "Success comes and goes, only failure is forever," says Willie Pastrano, who should know. So Momus, God of Mirth, became the city's patron saint, also its pet love-child, more fondly to be cherished than any triumph. Masters of Disaster, the slogan scrawled on project walls proclaimed. And it was true, when it came to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, no place did it better.

Where history fails to explicate, simple geography may do instead. Never mind what the maps say, New Orleans is not in any real sense American. Climatically, temperamentally, also morally, its deepest bond is with the Caribbean.

Perhaps that is why its three abiding passions have been for politics, gambling and ingestion.

Ideally, all three are combined. Thus the very finest of Crescent City rituals is the idle contemplation of the day's racing form and even idler debate of the season's civic election while propped up in some streetcorner Po' Boy bar, downing first a dozen of two of plump and sin-sweet oysters, then perhaps a pound of spiced crawfish and another of fatback buster crabs, the whole sluiced down with icy longnecks of Dixie beer.

Cabbage Alley Paradise! Admitted, politics may only be politesse for turpitude, gambling for loss, ingestion for massed piggery. But who's counting? In New Orleans, precious few know how.

This is the natural fact: just so long as a body can earn a discreet \$100 for voting right in the morning, lose back \$50 at the Fair Grounds racetrack in the afternoon and still have enough, on the \$10 remaining, to treat itself right on File Gumbo and Shrimp Etoufee, Pickled Piglets, Dirty Rice and Mud Pie come nightfall, Louisiana will continue to be a banana republic and proud of it. And all of its votaries, myself most devoutly included, will pray that, snared by this sweet sickness, none of us ever get well.

Tourists still flock to New Orleans spending \$2.2 billion yearly on Mardi Gras, jazz bands, and Mississippi steamboats. The Republicans have chosen the city for their convention this August, but for the natives it's a different story. Statistically it's one of the poorest cities in the USA.

are quasi-religious in origin, most ardently pagan in spirit, and all revolve around the same basic rites — masks and fancy dress, the scattering of beads and fake pirate doubloons, mummy, musical marching and Bacchic obeisance.

My own favourite is St Patrick's Day, which here lasts a week and a half. For the climatic cavalcade through the Irish Channel, a riverside shantytown, everything — lips, bouquets, even the beer — is dyed a nightmarish neon green and the grand marshal, usually a Roccaforte or a Bartholome, pelts the crowds with spuds and cabbage.

Mardi Gras itself, by comparison, suffers badly from overkill. Once it simply celebrated the powers of

calamity of war," proclaimed an 1845 guidebook, "can prevent New Orleans from becoming, if not the first, next in commercial importance to the first city in the United States — perhaps, in the world."

By the 1850s, riding King Cotton, it was the fourth port in the world; then came the Civil War. Afterwards, Yankee carpetbaggers dispossessed it, squeezed it bloodless, and somehow it never recovered. Atlanta, Dallas and Houston in turn arose to divide the spoils once promised for its own, and New Orleans, financially and politically, ended up a backwater, not much more than a power-broker's afterthought.

Its reaction was characteristic. Instead of bitterness, the vengeful brooding that a north-

Indolence comes courtesy of the climate. New Orleans, built on marshland, sits some feet below sea-level and that's exactly how it feels living underwater, enwombed in soup. Drowning in the swamp smells, one doesn't breathe air so much as concentrated Essence of Miasma.



From Jammu to Dalhousie by bus

Bumpy passage through India

By Michael Tuft

I DECIDED to go to India when the daily routine of the number 44 bus journey from Wandsworth to Holborn became too much. I reasoned that there must be better ways of spending my time than on a crowded bus crawling through a dirty, noisy city.

The overpowering image of Indian travel is, of course, the train. Yet many regions, especially in the mountains of the north, are accessible only by the infinitely less romantic bus. During the course of a three-month trip, I covered many hundreds of miles in the jolopies of the Indian State Bus Services.

This is an account of one typical trip: from Jammu to Dalhousie, a distance of just over 100 kilometres, which is scheduled to take eight hours and cost £1.25.

Having padlocked my rucksack to the roof, I boarded and indulged in the arcane craft of choosing a seat. (This applies only if you join a bus at the start of its route. Otherwise it's standing room only, and not much of that.) Choose a seat at the front and you'll be deafened by the engine and incessant blasts on the horn. Choose a rear seat and you'll be bumped around like a dried pea.

Noxious

Choose a window seat and there's no room for legs. Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze. Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four. Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke. There are no good seats on an Indian bus.

Although the bus averaged under 20 mph it contrived to give the impression that it was hurtling along. We wove through the ox carts, cyclists and pedestrians that clutter even the most rural stretches of India's highways.

Figures published in the Indian press state that although India has only 1 per cent of the world's motor vehicles, it is responsible for 6 per cent of the world's motor fatalities. This is easy to believe.

Risky

Apart from the volume of potential obstacles on the roads, many roads have been hacked through the kind of harsh, mountainous terrain that makes any journey a risky business. The road to the former British hill-station of Dalhousie was a good example.

After three hours, the bus pulled into Pathankot, which marks the transitional point between the plains and the Himalaya foothills: a typical Indian town, with a typical bus depot, humming with activity.

In the heat, I sat and waited for the onslaught that would come when it was realised that a



Passengers prepare for a trip. Many regions especially in the mountainous north are accessible only by bus.

wealthy white tourist had arrived. Soon a crowd materialised outside my window, and began yelling for my attention. No, I didn't want a room, a "cole ding", a fan, a Hindi comic, my luggage taken off the roof, my fortune read, etc, etc.

At the front of the bus the first of the beggars had started their appeal. He was a young man who handed out a card of autobiographical details printed in Hindi, Urdu and English. The death of his parents had left him with three lame brothers.

forward, resting his head between my shoulder blades.

The man to my right had his head tucked into my shoulder. A soldier in front had slung his hand over the back of his seat and it was resting on my knee. It was as one huge, sweaty blob that we made our way to Dalhousie, the temperature inside the vehicle never less than intolerable. I thought that there must be better ways of spending my time than sitting on an overcrowded bus as it made its way through a dirty, noisy town.

We were making good time when the tyre punctured. This

Having padlocked my rucksack to the roof I boarded and indulged in the arcane craft of choosing a seat ... choose a window seat and there's no room for legs.

Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze.

Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four.

Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke!

ers and two young sisters to look after. His pleas were totally ignored by the other passengers, who chatted among themselves. He collected his cards and moved on.

Next up was an old lady who sang Hindi songs and carried a portable shrine on a tray. She crept up the aisle daubing red paint on foreheads. Once a person was blessed, they were obliged to make a small donation. Next came a blind man, led by a young boy. Finally came one of the ascetic tramps known as "Sadhus", badly deformed and silent, his body being eloquent enough. To his appeal, the passengers were sympathetic.

After half an hour we were off again. The bus was packed to capacity and beyond. A Nepali in the seat behind leant

was the third puncture I had encountered, and coincidentally each one happened within a few hundred yards of a repair shop. I suspect that a few sharp stones were laid out by the equally sharp proprietors of these garages.

After about six hours of travel I could enter a sort of trance brought on by the constant noise and the dull ache in my backside, and it was in this state of mental inertia that I entered Dalhousie.

Few things can compare with the relief one feels at the end of an Indian bus trip. I could stretch my legs, change my sweat-soaked shirt, have a "cole ding" and breathe. And as my companions melted away into the bazaar I thought that perhaps the number 44 wasn't so bad after all.

By Rosemary Burton

ACCORDING to the First Law of Package Tourism, half the unwashed youth of Europe and America may be observed for more than half the year loafing in the Piazza San Marco in Venice. The cosmopolitan mixture is further complicated by the addition of elegant and earnest French parties and hapless Japanese, whose tour operations subject them to the ruthless indignity of the group gondola-ride.

In an attempt to "help keep Venice clean" the youth have recently been informed, by means of multilingual notices attached to litter-bins, that the eating of packed lunches in and around St Mark's Square is not allowed, on penalty of a £25 fine (a hefty copout, even by Venetian standards).

But, poor things, where are they to eat their packed lunches? Every day tripper — and, sadly, many who stay longer — believes that St Mark's Square is Venice; that is all they know or think they need to know.

John Julius Norwich has evidence that 80 per cent of day trippers never put so much as a foot beyond the confines of the Piazza, so the news that the authorities have grown weary of sweeping old sandwich wrappers and Coke tins from the floor of the finest drawing room in Europe will leave them hungry and confused.

Upsetting

Venice's Piazza is magnificent, but it can also be a strangely upsetting place; huge backpacks and luminous anoraks do little to enhance its splendour. Even Jan Morris, author of a definitive book about Venice which is on all the best reading lists, recently claimed to have fled the city wondering whether she would ever want to return to the monster she had helped to create, so hideous was the swarm of tour-

Viewing Venice without crowds

Even at the height of summer when the major sights of Venice are swarming, a walk of 100 yards or less from the Piazza or the Rialto can bring you to scenes of utter solitude.

It is a mistake to be depressed by the crowds. There is a time to view the Piazza (early morning, after dark or, as I discovered, a brilliant Saturday afternoon in January when St Mark's basilica itself was host to all of five people) and a time to leave it alone; but even at the height of summer when the major sights of Venice are swarming, a walk of 100 yards or less from the Rialto or the Piazza can bring you to scenes of utter solitude. How many members of the throng find their way to the 12th-century cloister of San Apollonia, the Campo San Margherita or the Corte Seconda del Milion associated with the family of Marco Polo?

Guidance

Only a little basic equipment is necessary to enjoy Venice without the crowds. Above all, a detailed map: the giveaway tourist versions are useless, and no doubt the fear of getting lost explains the collective reluctance to stray from the obvious landmarks. Seek out a map with a proper street index which does not shrink from naming minor alleys and courtyards. This provides an escape route from the well-trodden thoroughfares. Almost every vista, bridge, and building in Venice deserves more than a second glance.

For more guidance look for the small paperback, Guide to

Venetian Domestic Architecture by Egle Renata Trincanto (less than £5, published by Canal Books) at good bookshops, e.g. Calle Larga 22 Marzo, San Marco 2087 (near San Moise). It describes, with effective line drawings and plans, 90 buildings in the Castello and Dorsoduro districts. Because much of Venice's minor architecture would be of major interest elsewhere, anyone with the least enthusiasm for buildings and townscape will find much to enjoy.

A third useful item is the Carta Venezia, a card which entitles the holder to reduced price tickets on the vaporetti. For example, the current standard fare is 1,500 lire, about 75p, but the price with the carta is 500 lire. The card costs 10,000 lire and is valid for three years, but can easily pay for itself even in one visit. The fee and three passport photographs must be taken to the ACTV office at Piazzale Roma where the card will be issued over the counter.

A first visit to Venice may be better planned out of season. The tourist board is keen to promote Venezia Inverno as piu preciosa, piu conveniente — that does not include the February carnival week when the place can grind to a complete halt — but at Easter and in the summer there are always empty churches and deserted campi to escape to.



THOUSANDS of people crowded the Edo River, in Tokyo, to enjoy a sunny Sunday. More than five hundred row-boats occupied the river. (Reuter wirephoto)



FORMER White House aide Oliver North (right) talks with guests at a fund-raiser for Congressman Dan Burton (left). North, a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal, will go on trial after November's American presidential election. (Reuter wirephoto)



US SECRETARY of State George Shultz puts a ball during a game in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. Shultz is on an official visit to Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)



SYED HUSSAIN (right), the representative of a north Afghanistan guerrilla council, announced at a news conference in Islamabad yesterday a council proposal for the creation of an army to capture cities from the Soviet-backed Afghan government. To his left is another council member Syed Ahmad Haqbeen. (Reuter wirephoto)



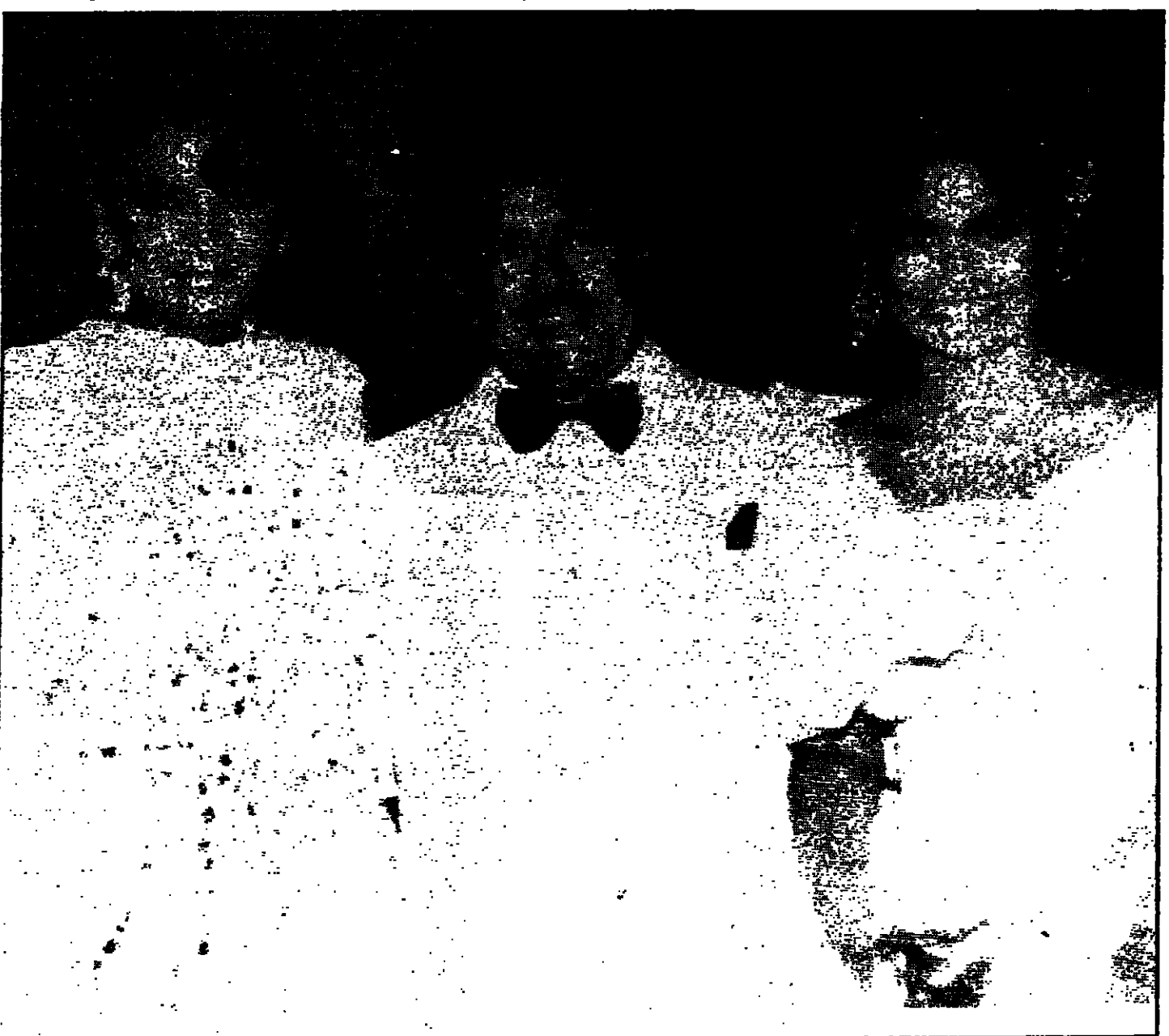
RICHARD MURPHY, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, (left), met yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in occupied Jerusalem. (Reuter wirephoto)



POLICE load into a van one of the anti-abortion protesters arrested in Atlanta outside the Midtown Hospital, an abortion clinic. (Reuter wirephoto)



OSCAR MPETHA (right) believed to be South Africa's oldest political prisoner, marked his 79th birthday under police guard in Cape Town's Groote Schuur Hospital. His children, grandchildren and over a hundred friends celebrated Mpetha's birthday at a gathering (left) in Cape Town's black township of Nyanga. (Reuter wirephoto)



FAMOUS Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi arrives at the Red Cross ball in Monte Carlo accompanied by his wife (left) and daughter Nabila. (Reuter wirephoto)



BERTA BENZ, wife of the German inventor Carl Benz, one hundred years ago drove the first car in the world, the Benz-Motorcar, 106 kms from Mannheim to Pforzheim. In commemoration, 165 old-timers and the first car, the Benz-Motorcar, with three actors in costumes of the time, drove along the same route on Saturday again. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fed likely to raise interest rates to contain inflationary pressures

Dollar firm on signs economy still growing strongly

LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuters): Boosted by data showing the US economy is still growing strongly, the dollar starts this week at its highest for almost a year against the West German mark.

Dealers, wary of more central bank intervention to steady the dollar's climb, bought the currency on Friday after US employment figures showed a record rise in new non-farm jobs in July even though the overall jobless rate edged up.

Higher

The dollar was helped by that news and by speculation that the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, might have to raise domestic interest rates to contain inflationary pressures.

But Wall Street weakened in

thin trading on concern that higher rates would push up the cost of borrowing to industry.

"One of the major constraints to the Fed not acting already to tighten credit is that the dollar was so very, very strong and any tightening would only push it higher," said economist Joe Liro of S.G. Warburg and Co. in New York. "They have a dilemma on their hands."

Dealer

The dollar closed in New York on Friday at 1.8945 marks compared with 1.8920 in London and 1.8798 in New York on Thursday. It was last this high in mid-August 1987.

"The near-term news is definitely bullish for the dollar," said

Doug Madison, a corporate trader for Bank of America.

In London, before trading finished in New York on Friday, a dealer for a US bank branch said: "The dollar just doesn't seem to want to go down. If it doesn't go through 1.90 marks tonight (in New York), people are going to come in Monday wanting to buy it."

Some US economists argue that a rising dollar may retard exports and slow the economy.

"That may reduce some pressure from inflation, but it may compound one of the nation's most serious problems — the trade deficit," one said on Friday.

Traders recalled that, a year ago when the dollar was at similar levels, news of a large

\$15.6 billion trade deficit for June, 1987, helped speed its decline. The next US monthly trade figures, again for June, are due out on August 16.

Move

Meanwhile, dealers said US financial markets on Friday took calmly the news that Treasury Secretary James Baker was stepping down to run Vice-President George Bush's presidential campaign. The move had been rumoured for some time.

Nicholas Brady, chairman of investment bankers Dillon Read and Co. was nominated to succeed Baker. Brady headed a White House panel that studied last October's stock market crash.

On Friday, the dollar also strengthened against the Japanese yen and the pound sterling, but it has been higher against both in the past month. It ended in New York at 133.88 yen from 133.03 on Thursday and at \$1.6895 to a pound from 1.7068.

Pressure

Gold, which dealers said was under pressure from the firm dollar and producer selling, closed in Hong Kong on Saturday at \$432.10 an ounce, slightly down from Friday's finish of \$432.15 in New York and \$432.50 in London.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.47 points on Friday at 2,119.13 — a fall of 9.6 on the week. Volume

was thin — it was the second slowest trading day of the year.

"There was basically lacklustre sideways action where today, not much went on," said William King, a trader for the US branch of Nikko Securities. Most traders foresaw little action in the coming week with many brokerage staff on summer holidays.

In London, the FTSE index of 100 leading shares closed on Friday at 2,232.30, up from 2,223.30 on Thursday.

The world's biggest share market, in Tokyo, eased back in half-day trading on Saturday as a result of profit-taking, dealers said. The Nikkei average fell 61.20 points to 28,362.18 after setting an all-time record of 28,423.38 on Friday.

OECD oil consumption on the rise

PARIS, Aug. 7. (KUNA): Oil consumption in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries rose by an estimated two per cent in the second quarter of this year to 35.1 million barrels per day (BPD) compared with 34.4 million BPD in the same period in 1987, according to preliminary data released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

For 1988 as a whole, the Paris-based IEA is forecasting consumption to increase to an average of 36.4 million BPD, that is 0.5 million BPD more than in the previous year, provided the OECD countries experience a growth rate of 3 per cent.

Oil supply to the world, communist countries not included, is estimated to have risen to 49.8 million BPD in July, 0.8 million BPD more than in June, mainly due to 0.3 million BPD increase from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and an assumed higher seasonal imports from the communist bloc of 0.4 million BPD, the IEA said.

OPEC's crude oil output in July averaged 18.8 million BPD, compared with 18.5 million BPD in June, with Iran and the UAE accounting for the 0.3 million BPD increase. All the other OPEC members maintained the June level production.

Explosion

OECD output stood at 16.5 million BPD, that is 0.1 million BPD more than in June, with the explosion on the Piper Alpha platform in the North Sea preventing the expected rise in the July production.

The Piper Alpha tragedy is expected to lower Britain's production by 0.2 million BPD in the last half of this year, IEA said.

Developing countries production in July rose by 0.1 million BPD to an average of 9.4 million BPD, while communist countries net exports to the OECD in July is estimated at 2.4 million BPD, a 0.4 million BPD increase from the June level.

Subroto to visit Kuwait

OPEC secretary-general Dr Subroto is scheduled to pay a visit to Kuwait in the coming few weeks, a local newspaper has reported.

The daily said that Subroto's visit appears to be called for by the OPEC committee on prices which met in Lausanne, Switzerland early this month. Subroto has visited the UAE and met with Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan who briefed him about UAE's production quota last week.

The five-man committee will hold a meeting in September to discuss results of Subroto's tour to some OPEC states and developments on oil markets, the daily said in a dispatch from Lausanne.

In a departure statement, Venezuelan oil minister told the journalists that this was his last meeting because he wants to resign as minister and run in the party elections which will be held in Venezuela shortly.

New airline services link

DUBAI, Aug. 7. (Reuters): Emirates Airline said today it would start a twice-weekly service to Damascus.

A spokesman for Dubai's government-owned carrier told Reuters the Syrian capital would be the 12th destination to be served by Emirates, which began operating in 1985.

The inaugural Boeing 727 flight would leave later today. Royal Brunei Airlines will begin a twice-weekly service to Dubai on Monday.

Earnings from equity offerings decline

Deutsche Bank profit climbs on stock gains

FRANKFURT, Aug. 7. Deutsche Bank AG said its first-half operating profit climbed 35 per cent compared with one-half of its 1987 operating profit because of rising interest earnings and improved earnings from stock trading, according to the Wall Street Journal.

West Germany's largest commercial bank did not disclose precise figures, but analysts said the results were slightly higher than expected and better than earnings reported by the bank's leading domestic rivals, Dresdner Bank AG and Commerzbank AG. Deutsche Bank shares advanced 1.80 Deutsche marks (96 cents) yesterday on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange to finish at DM485 (\$258.70).

The bank's first-half partial operating profit, which excludes profit from trading in its own account, edged up slightly to DM881.8 million from DM876.1 million, which is half of 1987's partial operating profit adjusted for a change in accounting rules, the bank said in an interim report.

Deutsche Bank said the accounting change is bloating its partial profit figures. Following

the example of other West German banks, the Deutsche Bank now is including profit from price bonuses that it receives from bond placements in its commission earnings, which is part of the partial profit figures.

In the past, bonuses have been treated as trading profit, which is excluded from partial profits. Because of this change, first-half partial profit can't be compared with figures for the year earlier period, when the partial profit stood at DM666.1 million.

For the group, total operating profit rose 24 per cent, but partial profit was 2 per cent lower compared with one-half of the 1987 result, Deutsche Bank said. Again, it didn't disclose precise figures.

Increase

The first-half increase comes after a steep drop in 1987 earnings, when shrinking interest margins and heavy losses during the October stock market crash pushed Deutsche Bank's operating profit down 34 per cent.

In the first six months, net interest earnings climbed 6.5 per cent to DM23.3 billion from DM21.9 billion, half the 1987 amount, while fee earnings rose

1.8 per cent to DM898.2 billion from DM 882.5 billion. Spending on personnel and equipment, meanwhile, increased 6.9 per cent to DM 2.34 billion from DM2.19 billion. All figures are adjusted for the new accounting practice.

While earnings from equity offerings declined because of a dearth of new issues in the first half, this drop was more than offset by higher earnings from bond placements and investment banking, the bank said.

Trading profit rose steeply because of the strong recovery on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and other major stock markets since the beginning of the year, Deutsche Bank said. Earnings from currency and precious metals trading were little changed from a year earlier, the bank added.

The bank said it is optimistic for the second half, but didn't give a profit forecast.

"These are very good results," said Stephen Lewis, an analyst at Salomon Brothers Inc. in London. "There was a bounce back in trading profit, because the securities written off after the stock market crash have now

been sold at a profit."

With this process largely completed, Lewis said he expects operating profit to climb at a slower pace in the second half. Nonetheless, the gain is likely to be steep, and because Deutsche Bank has little need to boost its reserves for loans to developing countries, the bank has the option of putting most of its additional profit into net profit, he said.

Barring a large boost in provisions, group net is likely to rise 10 per cent or more from DM670 million in 1987, he said.

Lewis estimated that in the first half, total group operating profit rose to DM1.78 billion from DM1.44 billion, which represents half of his estimate for total 1987 operating profit.

For the group, total business in the first half climbed 4.5 per cent to DM284.6 billion from DM272.3 billion at the end of 1987.

For the parent bank, business volume increased 9.9 per cent to DM185.3 billion from DM168.7 billion, and the amount of total credits extended was up 12 per cent to DM115.9 billion from DM103.2 billion.

Turkish inflation hits highest level since '81

ANKARA, Aug. 7. (Reuters): Turkish retail inflation hit 75.5 per cent in July, its highest annual level since 1981, the State Institute of Statistics said on Thursday.

The figures would put further pressure on Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to tighten unpopular austerity measures announced in February to stabilise the economy and a rapid depreciation of the Turkish lira, bankers said.

Prices

Inflation appeared to have peaked in May but instead prices continued to rise 2.2 per cent in June and 2.8 per cent in July compared to a drop of 0.1 cent and a rise of 1.9 per cent last year.

Officials from the State Planning Organisation declined to comment on why annual inflation had risen to 75.5 per cent compared to 37.7 per cent at the same time last year.

Price increases were highest in Mediterranean resort areas, where a 39 per cent increase in the number of tourists this year has pushed up fresh food and other prices.

Ecuador may tighten controls on oil firms, raise prices

QUITO, Aug. 7. (Reuters): Rodrigo Borja, who takes office as Ecuador's President next week, is likely to encourage foreign oil investment, tighten controls on oil companies and raise petrol prices quickly, oil analysts and executives say.

"The message we're getting is that existing contracts will be honoured but there will be closer controls," Michael Frost, head of Conoco in Ecuador, told Reuters.

Oil executives and analysts said they expected the Borja government to check more carefully than previous administrations that foreign oil companies abide by the regulations of their contracts.

Exchange

Borja, a 53-year-old law professor, takes office on August 10, succeeding conservative President Leon Febres Cordero.

Oil executives said Borja is likely to continue Febres Cordero's policy of attracting foreign oil investment to Ecuador.

The country desperately needs foreign exchange to stimulate its economy, which contracted in-

stead of growing last year, according to Central Bank figures.

Ecuador has lost an estimated \$3 billion over the past three years due to low oil prices and an earthquake in 1987 that ripped apart the country's main oil pipeline and caused a five-month suspension of exports, government officials said.

Oil accounts for two-thirds of the country's export revenues. "Borja has made public statements that make it clear he wants the foreign investment to continue," said Frost.

Another executive of a foreign oil company, who asked not to be named, told Reuters: "I am sure Borja will respect all the contracts that have been signed."

Analysts said the new government was likely to restructure the Ecuadorian State Oil Corp (CEPE), which is facing grave financial difficulties.

The manifesto of Borja's Democratic Left (ID) party says it aims to strengthen CEPE and boost its efficiency.

Analysts said one of the first acts of Borja's government is likely to be to raise petrol prices

even at the risk of strikes and social unrest.

CEPE, the recipient of petrol revenues, receives an unrealistically low income, said Walter Spurrier, a Guayaquil-based oil analyst who edits the economics journal *Analisis Semanal*.

A gallon of petrol in Ecuador costs 90 sucres (16 US cents).

Acting head of CEPE, Rafael Ulloa, told the independent paper *El Comercio* on Monday the company's deficit would reach 11.9 billion sucres (\$23.8 million) at the end of this year.

The deficit is high because of the low petrol prices and because oil export revenues go directly to the Central Bank, with only a small quota assigned to CEPE, analysts said.

Companies

Spurrier told Reuters the government's handling of oil companies depended largely on whom Borja chooses as the next energy minister.

Under the constitution, the current Energy Minister, Fernando Santos Alvia, must step down when the new government takes office.

Japan White Paper urges greater public prosperity

TOKYO, Aug. 7. (Reuters): The government issued an optimistic report on Japan's economy yesterday, but officials said the gap between rich and poor was growing and urged the country to extend economic benefits to all its people.

In its annual White Paper, the economic planning agency said Japan had made great achievements economically, but the general public had yet to feel a solid sense of prosperity.

"When we look at the Japanese economy at this point in time, it is almost in an ideal situation," said a senior agency official, commenting on the document to reporters.

"But not everything is rosy. Land prices have skyrocketed as the domestic financial markets have been deregulated. Land and stock asset values have grown," he said.

Disparity

"There is a growing disparity in Japan between those who own wealth, and those who do not," he added.

Relatively high domestic prices, long working hours and poor housing conditions were

among the main factors leading many people to think they were not benefiting enough from the expanding national economy, said the Paper, which the cabinet accepted as government policy on Friday.

The 524-page White Paper said Japan had achieved strong economic growth in the fiscal year ended last March.

Robust housing investment, consumer spending, and a 6,000 billion yen (\$45 billion) emergency economic package adopted in May last year, had pulled the economy out of a slump triggered by the rapidly rising yen, it said.

Efforts

The agency said a high yen had forced Japan to restructure its economy and companies had made strenuous efforts to adapt themselves to changed business circumstances, turning to the domestic market and away from exports for their profits.

Industries such as distribution, transportation, telecommunications, construction and agriculture, needed to be opened further to fair competition, it said.

The use of coal will create environmental problems

Indonesia weighs merits of nuclear power

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug. 7. (AP): Indonesia has plenty of oil, natural gas, coal and other sources of energy for current needs, but is considering a nuclear power plant for the day when its resources won't suffice.

Supporters of the nuclear option say there is little choice since electricity demand on the main island of Java is expected to increase more than six-fold by the year 2015. Java accounts for more than 60 per cent of the population of 170 million and 80 per cent of energy consumption.

Opponents insist that alternative energy sources should be enough and cite safety and environmental objections. They contend that a country burdened with \$40 billion of foreign debt can't realistically spend another billion or so on nuclear power.

Three experimental nuclear reactors already operate at Bandung in West Java, Jogjakarta in central Java, and at Serpong, 30 kilometres (19 miles) southwest of Jakarta. All are for research

and none feed power into the national grid.

Officials of the National Atomic Energy Agency (BATAN) say Serpong is the third-largest neutron-producing reactor in the world, after Grenoble in France and Brookhaven in the United States.

Subsidised by West Germany and opened last August by President Suharto, the 30-megawatt Serpong reactor is for research on fuel elements and processing of radioactive waste, and produces radioisotopes for food preservation.

Plant

In opening the plant, Suharto said it was important for Indonesian scientists to learn nuclear technology. "When eventually our development effort requires the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity, we will then have mastered the technology."

However, development of nuclear power now has the government's lowest energy priority, behind hydro-electricity, geothermal resources, coal, gas and oil. Gas and oil are regarded as mainly for export and earn about 70 per cent of the country's foreign exchange.

Indonesia is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas and East Asia's biggest oil exporter, with a 1.2-million-barrel-a-day quota from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Proponents of going nuclear are led by Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, the cabinet minister in charge of Research and Technology. He is best known for establishing aircraft manufacturing in Indonesia and is regarded as close to Suharto.

The multipurpose reactor at Serpong is one of the facilities prepared to support eventual developments of a nuclear generating station, Habibie told a seminar on atomic energy in June.

He says that Java will need an additional 27,000 megawatts of electric power by the year 2015,

and available sources of supply can provide only 20,000. Habibie said that since it will take seven to 10 years to build a nuclear plant, a decision should be made soon to avoid a power shortage.

"Since all hydro resources have already been used, the supply of geothermal power is limited and the use of coal will create environmental problems, the use of nuclear power to generate the remainder of the needed electricity is under consideration," Habibie said in a speech in Singapore.

A World Bank analysis last year said Jakarta should delay until 1995 any decision on whether to go nuclear. "For the short to medium term a nuclear power programme can't be justified on economic grounds," the World Bank said. It estimated that nuclear energy per kilowatt-hour costs at least five US cents compared to three US cents for conventional energy.

The World Bank report bolstered Treasury officials who

contend that the project is too ambitious and costly. Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin was quoted as saying, "maybe in 20 years, when we have more technical capability."

Habibie and his opponents agree that Indonesia can't afford to finance nuclear power through the usual commercial methods.

He proposes instead a "build-operate-transfer" or BOT arrangement. Under this system a foreign contractor builds the plant, operates it for 15 years and transfers it to the government after earning a reasonable return on selling electricity.

BOT deals have been used in Turkey and other developing countries, Habibie says. One banker in Jakarta said a high-cost nuclear plant has never been built on this basis and that suppliers would be unlikely to make the huge up-front investment necessary unless there were substantial guarantees from the government.

World Business Summary

EEC says trade bloc has recovered from crash

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Aug. 7. (AP): A European Economic Community survey released yesterday indicated the trade bloc has recovered from last October's stock market crash while economic activity is steadily expanding. The EEC commission's latest business and consumer survey showed economic activity was fuelled by a rise in domestic demand. Companies in most of the 12 EEC countries were planning to boost investment and production this year, while consumers were confident about the economic trend, the commission said in a statement. It said the EEC's economic indicator, which is based partly on the results of the survey, was at its highest level in June since the third quarter of 1987. The indicator was at 103.8 in June, up from 103.5 in May and up from 103.2 in April. By contrast, the leading indicators in the United States and Japan were "less buoyant" although there were no signs of a marked slowdown in growth, the commission said. The survey found that corporate investment is expected to rise almost twice as much in volume terms in 1988 compared with the previous year. The upturn in investment was most noticeable in Britain, France and Spain. Activity remained subdued in West Germany, the commission said.

EEC tariff on petrochemicals unjustified: Gulf official

ABU DHABI, Aug. 7. (Reuters): Tariffs imposed by the European Economic Community (EEC) on imports of petrochemicals from the Gulf are unjustified, a business official was quoted today as saying. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Salim Al Qassimi, chairman of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said exports from the region were too small to influence world markets. "Saudi Arabia, the Gulf's largest petrochemical producer, is still striving to reach an output of five per cent of the world petrochemical market," he wrote in the chamber magazine, *Trade*. "This makes EEC insistence on imposing tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals unjustified, especially as the EEC had a trade surplus with the Gulf of \$3.25 billion last year." Qassimi urged the EEC to abide by decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which he said limited the tariffs industrialised nations could impose on imports from developing nations. "Unfortunately, the EEC states are ignoring UNCTAD agreements and insist on imposing a tariff of 13.5 per cent on Gulf petrochemicals," he said. The EEC has refused demands by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to lift the tariffs on the grounds that this could lead to the dumping of cheap products from the Gulf. The two groups signed a trade accord in June which the GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — hope will pave the way for an agreement on petrochemicals.

Trade between the two blocs rose to around \$26 billion in 1987 from 16 billion in 1986, according to Sharjah Chamber figures.

General Motors plans to form advanced engineering centre

DETROIT, Aug. 7. (UPI): General Motors Corp. announced yesterday plans to form an advanced engineering centre in an attempt to reduce product development cycles, improve quality and lower costs. The systems engineering centre, to employ about 150 employees at a central location in Warren, Mich., plus 200 more workers scattered throughout five satellite locations, will enable GM to use new engineering tools and techniques that can be applied by all vehicle divisions for the design of their cars and trucks. The centre will be created to take advantage of some of the important developments coming from GM's project triby, a programme aimed at redefining the manufacture and design of vehicles into the 21st century. GM vice-chairman Donald Atwood said. "The influence of triby on our future vehicles will be significant," Atwood said. "This will enable us to reduce lead times, improve quality, and lower costs while we still maintain the individuality of each line of vehicles." The centre will also be supported by a team of systems engineers from Hughes Aircraft, the aerospace and defense company which GM purchased in 1985 for \$5 billion. "This is a significant step to bring aerospace systems engineering techniques into mainstream automotive design," Atwood said. The centre will co-ordinate individual satellite locations which will be established at the three units of GM's Buick-Oldsmobile-Cadillac Group — the Fiat Automotive Division, Lansing Automotive Division, and Cadillac Motor Car Division. Satellite offices will also be established at GM's truck and bus group, as well as one at its Chevrolet-Pontiac-Cadillac Group.

Oil futures prices rebound

NEW YORK, Aug. 7. (AP): Oil futures prices rallied on Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange after declining sharply during the week, sparked by news of possible peace talks between Iran and Iraq. The contract for September delivery of West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark grade of US crude, rose 23 cents per 42-gallon barrel to close at \$15 and 26 cents. One gallon equals 3.8 litres. The contract had opened at \$16.31 a barrel on Monday before declining throughout the week. Refined oil products also gained ground. The September contract for wholesale heating oil climbed 0.58 cents a gallon to finish at 43.04 cents. Wholesale unrefined gasoline for September increased 0.28 cent a gallon to 45.23 cents. Analysts said prices recovered on technical factors and news the United Nations was persisting in its efforts to bring about an end to the fighting between oil-producing Iran and Iraq. A truce in the region could signal higher oil prices if the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which includes Iran and Iraq, can agree on production limits. "Prices rose early because of the potential for a ceasefire," said Andrew Lebow, an oil analyst for E.D. and F. Man International Futures Inc.

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Dobson Street
Fahnestock
Tel. 3817353/3828448

Higher interest rates not inevitable: Baker

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7. (Reuters) Departing Treasury Secretary James Baker praised the Federal Reserve Board's monetary policy and said he does not think the central bank has signalled that higher interest rates are inevitable.

Interviewed on television, Baker was asked if the Fed will be forced to raise rates in this election year. He said lower interest rates were desirable but not at the expense of higher inflation.

"In saying that I am not acknowledging that that is what the Fed has said they will do because I don't think they have," Baker, who has announced his resignation effective August 17 to lead Vice-President George Bush's campaign for president, praised the job the Fed has done with the economy.

"I think the Fed has done an extraordinarily good job of maintaining a balance between preserving growth on the one

hand and being vigilant against inflation on the other," Baker said.

He defended Bush's pledge that if elected he will not raise taxes for four years despite huge federal budget deficits.

"I think it is a responsible position to take based on what I know after seven and a half years in government and what happens when revenues are raised. They don't go to deficit reduction," Baker said.

He said Bush's plan not to raise taxes would be combined with a selective freeze on government spending that will permit such Bush proposals as child care assistance and restoring tax breaks on capital gains.

Baker added that those programmes did not represent an "exorbitant sum of money."

Baker explained that under Bush's proposal of a so-called flexible freeze spending limitations would not be across the

board but would be done with discretion.

He said the federal budget deficit has been declining more rapidly than was anticipated because of limits on spending increases already in place.

Baker's long-awaited departure to join the Bush campaign was announced on Friday by President Reagan who praised Baker and said he will nominate Wall Street executive Nicholas Brady as Treasury Secretary.

Economy will grow at least 2.5pc this year

W. German capital outflow hits record \$29.6b

FRANKFURT, Aug. 7. Capital flight has been flowing out of West Germany at an unprecedented rate, helping to explain why the Bundesbank has been raising interest rates to try to prop up the Deutsche mark, reports Wall Street Journal.

The West German central bank Thursday said the nation's balance of payments showed a record net capital outflow of \$5.5 billion Deutsche marks (\$29.6 billion) in the first half, more than triple the year-earlier's DM16.9 billion. The reason: A broad swing in long-term capital transfers to a net outflow this year from a net inflow a year ago.

Investors

Economists say investors are leaving Deutsche mark instruments in pursuit of higher interest rates abroad, particularly in the US and UK. The Bonn government's plans to impose a 10 per cent withholding tax on West German domestic bonds prompted many West German and foreign investors to put their money in foreign fixed-income securities.

The widening deficit in the capital account underscores policy makers' fears that an exodus of capital from West Germany is weakening the Deutsche mark and raising potential for imported inflation

as foreign goods become more expensive.

"We're not worried about the growing capital deficit because we're losing capital as such, but because of the effect it's having on our currency in foreign-exchange markets," a Bundesbank official said. In addition to fears of imported inflation, he said the central bank believes a weakening currency impedes West Germany's pledge to help reduce world trade imbalances by bringing down its huge trade surplus.

The pace of capital flight accelerated in June, with net outflow surging 42 per cent to DM13.9 billion from DM9.8 billion in May. And it was in June that the Bundesbank began tightening its monetary policy with a series of interest-rate increases. These included 1/2 percentage point jumps in its discount and Lombard rates as well as a cumulative one-point increase in its one-month securities repurchase agreements.

Inflow

The so-called repo is a key refinancing rate for West German banks and is the Bundesbank's preferred instrument for steering money market interest rates under which banks secure liquidity from the Bundesbank by using securities as collateral.

The Bundesbank also has been intervening in foreign exchange markets to reverse the Deutsche mark's 20 per cent slide against the dollar since the beginning of the year.

"What the Bundesbank obviously is doing is to try and make West German interest rates more competitive, particularly by narrowing the differential with US rates," said Sarah Hewin, a European economist for American Express Bank Ltd. in London. "The idea is to stop the Deutsche mark from falling by making it more attractive for funds to stay in Germany," she said.

Outflows

West German officials are particularly troubled by a shift in long-term capital transfers in the first half of 1988 to a net outflow of DM50.6 billion from a net inflow of DM18.7 billion the year before. The reason is that the reversal reflects not only a flight from West German securities but also an emerging pattern of disinvestment in West Germany.

The Bundesbank's definition of long-term capital covers credits and securities with maturities exceeding one year, as well as direct investments by banks and industry. Direct investments in such fixed assets as real

estate and industrial participations, saw a 38 per cent increase in first-half net outflows to DM8.9 billion from DM6.45 billion a year earlier.

West German economists say an export-oriented economy like West Germany's always will tend to generate capital outflows. But that relationship was far from balanced in the first half, when the DM55.5 billion in net capital outflow dwarfed the amount of funds coming into West Germany from trade and services.

West Germany's current-account surplus for the first six months has yet to be announced, but it is expected to show a surplus of roughly DM37 billion.

"The traditional balance is becoming distorted by a combination of rising US interest rates and speculation that the dollar will continue to rise," said Heine Flasseck, an economist with the German Institute for Economic Research in West Berlin. "The result will be to force West Germany to rely even more on exports for growth."

Economists also say the Deutsche mark has been hurt by market expectations of a weakening West German economy next year, even though growth has been accelerating so far this year.

Recent economic indicators

tend to support government predictions that the West German economy will grow at least 2.5 per cent this year, after expanding only 1.7 per cent in 1987.

For instance, the economics ministry reported Thursday that June order inflow to the manufacturing industry rose by a real, seasonally adjusted 0.9 per cent from May, and by a real, or inflation-adjusted, 8.5 per cent from June 1987.

In a two-month comparison, which isn't as sensitive to short-term fluctuations, May-June order bookings rose 1.5 per cent from the preceding two-month period and were up 11 per cent from a year earlier. The economics ministry said May-June orders from abroad were up 13 per cent on the year, while domestic orders rose 9.6 per cent.

And, despite the Bundesbank's inflation fears, the government said West Germany's annual inflation rate still was running at only 1 per cent in July.

Unemployment continues to darken the economic landscape, however. The Federal Labour Office reported July's unemployment rate stood at 8.6 per cent in July, when 2.2 million were reported to be out of work. The July rate was up from 8.4 per cent in June, but eased slightly from 8.7 per cent in July 1987.

Drilling set to see if Paris sits on oil

PARIS, Aug. 7. (AP) Oil producers are hoping that the city of light, already a cultural and archaeological treasure-trove, might also yield oil.

On Tuesday, Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine is to begin drilling an exploratory oil well on the southern edge of Paris at Ivry-sur-Seine, the first of several wells in a major exploration campaign which includes the city centre.

"I don't think Paris will ever be Houston," said Jean Perrot, Elf's assistant director of exploration in France. "But there is still oil to be found in the Paris basin."

The basin is an area spanning 50,000 square miles (129,500 square kilometres) from the capital to the West German border.

Reserves

Exploration surged in the Paris basin after the discovery in April 1983 of extensive oil deposits at the Chaunoy field, in a rural region about 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of the capital.

The Ivry site, barely a mile (about two kilometres) outside the city limits, is being explored under a permit awarded in December 1985 to Elf, Total Compagnie Francaise des Petroles and British Petroleum.

The 587 square miles (1,520 square kilometres) covered by the permit includes the city of Paris.

It will take as much as four weeks to determine whether Ivry contains marketable reserves, and whether they might extend inside the city. But "it is quite certain that even with a total failure in Ivry, there will be other exploratory wells," Perrot said.

Perrot said it definitely will drill an exploratory well, likely before the end of the year.

In their exploration campaign, the companies say they have already spent more than 70 million francs (about \$11.6 million) required under the five-year permit, mostly for seismic tests.

There are currently more than 1,000 exploratory wells in the Paris basin, which produces nearly two-thirds of France's modest oil output, also drawn from the Aquitaine region of southwestern France and, minimally, from Alsace on the eastern frontier.

But Ivry is the first well to be drilled so close to the capital itself.

Studies

"If we are encouraged by Ivry," said Elf spokesman Alexis Poutchikovskiy, "we will be encouraged to do more studies of Paris."

"We could easily find locations" for derricks, he said. "Look at the number of wells in Los Angeles and Houston."

Oil derricks would not rival the Eiffel Tower for attention. Experts see stadium areas, disused factories or even discreetly moored boats on the Seine river as possible sites for drilling.

"We are looking at all solutions," Poutchikovskiy said.

Limited seismic readings of the capital were carried out in 1986 when specially equipped trucks sounding out the city depths rolled down the Champs Elysees while Paris slept.

More extensive seismic readings showed a favourable geological conditions in Ivry, near by Orly, Cheneviers, to the east, and Roissy, to the north, according to Elf and Total, the two operators on the permit which gives Elf 50 per cent. Total 35 per cent and British Petroleum 15 per cent.

To the uninitiated, exploring for oil in the highly urbanised Paris region may be akin to searching for water in a desert.

But chances of finding a gusher may be higher than in Texas.

Discovered

Industry specialists say the standard 1-10 success ratio climbs to between 1-5 and 1-6 in the Paris basin.

"You will never find a giant in the Paris basin," said Poutchikovskiy, but there are 40 million tons of known reserves.

France knew it had oil centuries ago when Alsatian miners caught drippings in buckets.

The Paris basin's first well was discovered in 1958, but it was not until the Chaunoy find by Esso S.A., the French subsidiary of Exxon Corp., that the industry took serious notice.

About 15 companies were operating in the region at the time of the Chaunoy discovery. Today there are as many as 90, many of them foreign.

Triton, a subsidiary of Triton Energy Corp. of Dallas, has been established in France since 1980. The first foreign company to operate in the Paris basin, it now ranks No. 4 overall with a production rate of 10,000 barrels a day, or 400,000 tons a year, according to Triton France's director of exploration Emmanuel Mousset.

Record

France had a record year in 1987, producing 3.2 million tons of oil, a small amount compared with its 66.4 million tons of imports.

Industry executives say costs of extracting the crude are higher than in the United States and benefits remain marginal.

"Exploration is a long affair. To recover investments is a long process and we are now beginning to recover ours," said Triton's Mousset.

OPEC urged to solve its long-standing problems

ABU DHABI, Aug. 7. (KUNA): A United Arab Emirates English language daily today blamed a 'game' by spot-market traders for causing a drop in oil prices following OPEC's meeting in Lausanne and said it was unconvinced with market factors.

"It is said that oil traders have been influenced by two factors: slow progress towards peace in the Gulf and the current oil glut," the Dubai-based Khaleej Times said in an editorial.

"People pushing down prices may be those who believe that with peace in Iran and Iraq will become aggressive oil producers in order to finance their reconstruction projects," the paper said.

But it stressed "common sense suggests that the two countries cannot afford to indulge in that luxury."

The Khaleej Times pointed out "OPEC problems are more fundamental" than could be resolved by a five-man panel.

The organisation, it said has "failed to provide stitches in time" referring to the question of the UAE's quota.

The paper urged OPEC to resolve its long-standing problems saying:

"Now that peace is a distinct possibility it has to wrest the initiative it lost to the spot market through greater unity within the organisation and honest action."

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.100	1.130	1.140	1.100	4290000	123
GULF BANK	0.435	0.465	0.465	0.440	3370000	102
COMMERCIAL BK	0.325	0.350	0.350	0.330	4640000	167
AHLI BANK	0.410	0.425	0.430	0.410	2180000	86
B.K.N.E	0.400	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.R.E.B.	0.455	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
BURGAN BANK	0.325	0.345	0.350	0.325	4650000	188
K.F.HOUSE	0.530	0.550	0.560	0.530	2340000	104
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	40000	1
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.I.I.C.	0.172	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
CON.FACILITIES	0.490	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
AHLIA INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
I.F.A.	0.102	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INV. PEARL KUT	0.112	0.116	0.116	0.114	2400000	38
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.750	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF INSURANCE	0.360	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.590	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
WARBA INS. CO.	0.460	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.238	0.248	0.248	0.238	560000	9
UNIT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.114	0.120	0.120	0.116	140000	35
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.216	0.218	0.220	0.218	200000	6
SALHAH R.E.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KUT PROJECTS	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.085	200000	3
KUT R.E.T.CON	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KUT M.P. IND.	0.350	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.255	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
REF. IND. CO.	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	50000	2
N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF CABLE	1.070	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.P.H.IND. CO.	0.226	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
CONT.MARINE	0.350	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.S.H.REP.CO.	0.046	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
K.N.C.CO.	0.190	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.170	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
WAREHOUSING	0.178	0.186	0.186	0.180	540000	11
CON.MKT.CMPK.	0.020	0.020	0.021	0.020	1600000	13
MOBILE TELE.	0.410	0.420	0.420	0.405	80000	30
KUT COMPUTER	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	20000	1
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.230	0.234	0.234	0.234	100000	1
UNIT FISHERIES	0.154	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
UNIT POULTRY	0.234	0.224	0.224	0.224	60000	3
KUT FOODS	0.310	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
AGRI.FOOD PRD.	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NON-KUT SECTOR						
BIN.INTER.BK.	0.068	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
BIN.W.EAST.BK.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	160000	2
UNIT GULF BK.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
COAST INVEST.	0.116	0.118	0.120	0.116	7400000	90
A.G. INV. CORP.	0.036	0.037	0.037	0.036	160000	2
FIRST GULF BK	0.620	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
B.K.I.G.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
PEARL INV.CO.	0.098	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF INV.CO.	0.041	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF INTL.INS.	0.009	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
ARAB INTL.INS.	0.005	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
GULF UNION INS.	0.070	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B.GULF MEDICAL	0.027	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
C.R.K. WHITE CHMT	0.023	0.024	0.024	0.024	500000	1
D-AMIAN CEMENT	0.007	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
E-FUJAIHRAH CENT	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	80000	1
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
G-GULF CEMENT	0.016	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
N-UNW QATWAIN	0.020	0.021	0.021	0.021	160000	2

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 7/8/88			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel.
2	Nikolay Morozov	Al Rashid	2422026
4	Professor Mierzejewski	A. Seas	3421303
6	Falcio	Alsanaw	4746018
7	Kanika 4	GH&Q	4747815
14	Alysamamah	KSA	4843150
17	Dresden	Steamco	2439973
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel.
7/8	Hual Ingrida	AMBahar	2459891
7/8	Ibn Alnaffes	KSA	4843150
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel.
2	Pearl	S.M.S.	4745471
9	Abu Basma	RSMS	2423642
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel.
7/8	Tug Gulf Master	S. Shaheen	2432692
8/8	Hercules	BB Hassan	2440359
9/8	Great Liberty	Al Kamal	2425437
9/8	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814
10/8	New Oasis	A.S. Marafie	4848665
10/8	Willine Orient	Oh. Barber	4842988
11/8	Atropos	M.A. Bahar	2433881
16/8	Soya Maru	RSMS	2423642
16/8	Trade Freedom	M.A. Bahar	2433881

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KD rates mixed in quiet trade

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates mixed in the short dates yesterday but firmed in the longer periods in quiet trade ahead of a Treasury bill issue on Tuesday, bankers said.

Rates in the short periods eased from Saturday but remained high as banks set themselves up for the 100 million dinar (\$355 million) issue. Most activity was in overnight funds, bankers said.

Dealers said deposit rates have been held high as operators use dollars, speculating the US currency will rise against other major currencies.

Overnight was taken aggressively at nine per cent after trading at 10 on Saturday, bankers said. Tomorrow-next and spot eased to 8-1/2, 6-1/2 after trading at nine the day before.

Unchanged

One, two and three-months were unchanged at 6-3/8, six, six-months through one-year firmed 1/8 points to 6-1/2, 1/8.

The Central Bank kept its exchange rate unchanged on Saturday at 0.28361/71 to a dollar, while commercial banks quoted the spot dinar at an average 0.28370/75.

Saudi Riyal deposit rates fell to a uniform 8-1/2 per cent yesterday following tightening in the short-term maturities ahead of the Islamic new year.

Bankers said Saudi companies based their budgets on the Islamic lunar year, due this year

to start from about August 14, were seeking liquidity to meet end-of-year commitments such as salaries and contract payments.

One-to-nine-month rates flattened to nine, 8-13/16 per cent, but one-year was quoted slightly higher at 9-1/8, 8-7/8 per cent

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SALMIYA, Bahrain Street, near Abdullah Khalaf School. One room with water and electricity for an Indian, Pakistani or working girl. Bus routes 14, 109, 505, 15, 19. Tele. 5722170, 5657000 ext 521. (AT3-43438-3)

SALMIYA, accommodation in a 2 bedroom flat for a Christian bachelor to share with a Goan couple. Near bus routes, 30, 19, 15. Tele. Mr. Tony, 5634324, 3-10 pm. (AT2-43420-2)

KUWAIT City, Accommodation for a Goan bachelor to share with another Goan bachelor. Tele. 2441496, 9am-12:30pm. (AT1-43415-3)

SHARQ, House 117, behind Firdous Cinema. Accommodation for a family to share with a family. Tele. Izzat Mousa, 2516369, 8am-12:30 pm, 4-7-30 pm. (AT2-43431-3)

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Computers

COMMODORE 128, 2 disk drive, monitor, data cassette, freeze frame, 2 Toysticks, kola painter, 400 programmes and games, books and many things. Tele. Mr. Sadeq, 2464455. (AT3-43444-3)

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HYUNDAI, 1988, automatic, white, in very good condition. KD200 for owner, KD2700 for agency or can exchange with Chevrolet '85/'86 model. Tele. Mr. Ali 9020464, 5612616, res. (AT1-43408-3)

BMW 745i 1980 model, fully automatic, in excellent condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. Interested please Tele 2402959. (AT1-43406-3)

TOYOTA Corolla, 1979, red, manual with AC, in good condition. KD400/- Tele. Mr. Riaz Ull-Huq 3913417, 4-8pm. (AT1-43410-3)

CHEVROLET, Caprice Classic, '80 model, maroon colour. KD600. Tele. 2424248, 2424298, 8:30 am - 3 pm. (AT2-TURKISH-AJ-2)

TOYOTA Cressida, model 77, renewed engine with AC, manual gear. In very good condition. KD300, cash. Tele. 5749563, 9 am - 2 pm, 5-8 pm. (AT2-43426-3)

HONDA Prelude '85, automatic, 33,000 kms, insured upto June '89, white, with AC and sunroof. KD1.500. Tele. 2420656, 8 am - 4 pm. (AT3-43435-3)

Miscellaneous

ABU HALIFA: 3 bedroom flat with swimming pool with all furniture and electrical appliances for sale. Tele. Chris Hastings, 2405273/4, work. (AT2-43423-2)

SURFA, Area 3, Street 8, Villa 1, opp. Japanese School. Wide collection of Korean and Japanese chests and Chinese antiques for sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. Mrs. Wilcox, 5316785. (AT2-43424-2)

SETTEE, sofa cum bed, rug, dryer, drawer, cupboard, corner tables, glass dining table, double beds, dressing table and TV. etc. Tele. 5732047, 11am-4pm. (AT1-43405-3)

FRIDGE, KD 30, washing machine KD 30, 4 chairs, coffee-table, KD 15, single & double mattresses KD 20, chest drawer KD 8, 2 baby bicycles, KD 16, Flat 32, 8th floor, Abbasia, before Shahani Video, (6-8 pm). (AT3-43442-3)

MARKET PLACE

KAWASAKI GPZ 900, 85 model, red and grey colour, in excellent condition. Tele. Mr. Arshad, 2417140 ext. 281, after 1 pm. (AT2-43427-3)

CHINON 8mm movie camera with sound, Eumig projector with-out sound, child's pram and other miscellaneous items for sale. Price reasonable. Tele. 3918562. (AT2-43413-3)

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HOUSEMAID required for a small Kuwaiti family. Tele. 5639934. (AT1-43374-3)

HOUSEMAID required, Filipino, full-time. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 5339968, 8am-12noon. (AT1-43387-3)

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Deluxe villa with swimming pool, KD1100 plus many villas and flats in all areas.

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BASEBALL
ROUNDUPMets take
six-game
lead in
NL East

NEW YORK, Aug. 7. (AP) — Relief ace Jim Gott was hardly a stopper for the Pittsburgh Pirates last night.

Gott's Major League record-tying three batters in the eighth inning scored two runs and set up a third as the New York Mets opened up a six-game lead in the National League East by beating Pittsburgh 5-3.

All three batters were for failing to come to a stop.

The batters "were obvious, they were very flagrant. And I should know what a balk looks like as many times as our pitchers got called for them in the first 2 1/2 months," said Mets manager Davey Johnson. "They obviously were the big plays."

Pirates manager Jim Leyland was much more skeptical.

"I'm a professional and I'm not going to second guess the umpires' decisions," Leyland said. "But it's frustrating to a manager at times when a pitcher throws four pitches and gets called for a balk on the fifth. That's what I don't understand."

Other National League games saw Montreal tip St. Louis 5-4; Chicago beat Philadelphia 7-4; San Diego beat Cincinnati 4-1; Atlanta beat San Francisco 7-2; and Los Angeles beat Houston 5-3.

A's 5, Mariners 4

Jose Canseco has 40-40 visions.

The Major League home run leader became the 11th player in Major League history to hit 30 home runs and steal 30 bases in the same year when he got his 30th stolen base yesterday in Oakland's 5-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners. Canseco has 31 homers and is trying to become the first player to hit and steal 40 in the same season.

"It's very realistic, hitting nine homers in the next two months," Canseco said.

"If you see the way he's hit his 30 home runs and stolen his 30 bases, the numbers have meant a lot," Oakland manager Tony La Russa said.

Canseco's steal led to the winning run. Dave Henderson led off the ninth with a single against Mike Jackson, 6-3. Canseco forced Henderson and stole second, went to third on Jackson's wild pickoff throw and scored on Mark McGwire's sacrifice fly.

In other American League games, it was Detroit 4, Boston 2; Kansas City 11, Toronto 1; New York 5, Minnesota 3; Cleveland 5, Texas 3; Baltimore 7, Milwaukee 2; and California 7, Chicago 5.

Expos 5, Cardinals 4

Tom Foley hit a two-run triple, and Otis Nixon added a two-run double as Montreal continued its hex over St. Louis. The Expos are 10-2 against the Cards this season and have won 11 of their last 13 games. They also have won 14 of their last 16 on the road.

Cubs 7, Phillies 4

Al Nipper allowed five hits in 5 1/3 innings to win for the first time since May 24 and reliever Pat Perry hit his first Major League home run as Chicago defeated Philadelphia. Rafael Palmeiro extended his hitting streak to 16 games with an RBI single off Mike Maddux, 3-2, in the fifth inning.

Padres 4, Reds 1

Dennis Rasmussen allowed six hits in eight-plus innings to beat his former Cincinnati teammates for the third time since being traded June 8. Rasmussen, 10-7, retired the first 10 batters of the game, striking out the side in the second and third innings. The left-hander struck out eight and walked two to win for the eighth time in nine decisions with San Diego.

Braves 7, Giants 2

Pete Smith allowed five hits in six innings to win for the first time since July 4 and Lonnie Smith singled twice and doubled to lead a 14-hit attack. It was Atlanta's third straight victory, tying its longest winning streak of the season.

Dodgers 5, Astros 3

Tim Lincecum and Jay Howell combined on a seven-hitter as Los Angeles Dodgers increased its lead to 3 1/2 games over second-place Houston in the National League West.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 2

Matt Nokes hit a two-run homer and Doyle Alexander allowed seven hits as Detroit beat the Red Sox for the fourth straight time, matching Boston's longest losing streak this season. Detroit leads Boston by four games in the AL East.

Yankees 5, Twins 3

Rickey Henderson hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and stole three bases as New York stopped a four-game losing streak and ended the Minnesota's four-game winning string.

SEGUSO MAKES MCENROE FIGHT FOR VICTORY

Becker struggles past Witsken

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 7. (UPI) — Top-seeded Boris Becker and fifth-seeded John McEnroe claimed difficult victories yesterday to advance to the final of the US Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Becker, who has not played a seeded foe in the tournament, struggled in eliminating local favorite Todd Witsken 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. McEnroe, trying to regain the form that led him to four US Open titles and three Wimbledon crowns, defeated 15th-seeded Robert Seguso 7-5, 6-3.

Emerging

The final at the Indianapolis Sports Centre this evening was to be the first match between Becker and McEnroe since a marathon Davis Cup encounter last year. Becker emerged 4-6, 15-13, 8-10, 6-2, 6-2, winner in 6 hours and 20 minutes, the second-longest match in Davis Cup history.

"To play McEnroe is always special, no matter what round. It would make a win even sweeter," said Becker, who has won two of their three meetings. "Whenever former No. 1 players meet, it's a tough match."

McEnroe seeks his 72nd singles title, which would match Ivan Lendl for second on the all-



Becker heads for the ground after making a return to Witsken. (Reuter wirephoto)

time list. Jimmy Connors, eliminated by Seguso in the third round, has the most tournament crowns in tennis history with 106. McEnroe's last title came at a Tokyo tournament in April, his only

other hard court appearance this year.

"I'm looking forward to playing him to see how I'm playing and where I stand," McEnroe said. "I feel it's within me to win,

but he will be playing better. This was the best match I played in the tournament but I don't know if I would beat Becker if I played like this."

Seguso made critical mistakes to drop the first set. In the second set, McEnroe, who argued six times with umpire Paulo Peira over line calls, began arguing with Seguso over delaying tactics.

McEnroe broke Seguso's serve for a 3-2 lead, then held serve and broke Seguso again to take the match.

"The guy was going nuts after every point, talking between every point," Seguso said. "The guy in the chair did a poor job of controlling the match. I just couldn't believe what he was doing. It got pretty frustrating. When he feels threatened, he blows up and tries to throw a player's game off."

Seguso, playing in his first hard court tournament in five months, had not reached an outdoor semifinal on the surface since losing to McEnroe, 6-2, 6-3, in Vermont in 1985. Seguso, 25, of Sebring, Fla., has won 21 tournament titles with doubles partner Ken Flach but has never reached a singles final as a professional.

Becker broke Witsken's serve in the seventh game of the final set, taking the final point with a forehand winner past Witsken.

Becker briefly complained to the umpire about losing a point for touching the net earlier in the game. "I was explaining what happened, but he couldn't understand my English. There were bad calls against both of us."

The 20-year-old West German dominated his first set, winning it in only 26 minutes, dictating the tempo to a conservative Witsken, who awaited mistakes by Becker and managed only one winning shot in the set.

Advantage

Witsken, who had never played Becker before, became aggressive in the second set. The 24-year-old American had four break points against Becker in the second game of the second set, but could not take advantage.

Becker, ranked fifth in the world, had not lost a game on his serve in the tournament until Witsken, ranked 93rd in the world, broke him in the final game of the second set. Becker double faulted and put two return volleys into the net in the game.

W. Indies poised for 14th win in 15 Tests

LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — West Indies are poised to win the fifth and final cricket Test at the Oval tomorrow despite being required to make the highest total of the match to beat England for the 14th time in 15 Tests.

Gordon Greenidge's powerful, unbeaten 53 yesterday evening, carrying West Indies to 71 without loss in pursuit of their victory target of 225, supported the view that much of the earlier batting had been sub-standard.

The Oval pitch has been faultless — offering all the bowlers something to work with while being a true batting surface — and it now seems a formality that West Indies will score the remaining runs to take the series 4-0.

Well though the fast bowlers — Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose and Winston Benjamin for West Indies and Neil Foster

for England — have performed, the only explanation for England's 205 in the first innings being the highest total so far can be that the batting has been unexceptional.

Unexceptional that is until Greenidge went to work yesterday with a succession of break-taking strokes. He put on 50 in 19 overs with Desmond Haynes and his unbeaten half-century included nine fours.

Yielded

Greenidge's dashing effort contrasted with Graham Gooch's seven-hour innings for England which yielded 84 runs. For 70 minutes yesterday morning Gooch failed to score a run.

But in the context of the limitations of England's batting overall, the pace of Gooch's innings was excusable. He knew that he was the only player capable of a big score and could not

risk any extravagant strokeplay.

A sudden splash of Caribbean sunshine, almost the first of a lamentable summer, has accompanied the match so far and the weather is forecast to remain good for the remainder.

The likelihood is that the game will be over soon after lunch on the fourth day with West Indies winning their sixth successive series against England without suffering a single defeat.

England lost their three home series against West Indies before this one 3-0, 1-0 and 5-0 and in their last two visits to the Caribbean have been beaten 2-0 and 5-0.

Defeat here tomorrow will mean that in the last 29 Tests between the two teams, West Indies will have won 20 with the other nine drawn.

Scores: England 205 and 202, West Indies 183 and 71 for no wicket.



LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — A captain's innings of 66 not out by Phil Neale and effective pace bowling from Phil Newport helped injury-hit Worcestershire sustain their challenge for the County Cricket Championship yesterday.

Third-placed Worcestershire — 35 points behind leaders Kent but with a game in hand — were 33 runs ahead of Sussex with six wickets in hand at the end of the opening day of their three-day game at Kidderminster.

Worcestershire were without England fast bowler Graham Dilley, who has knee trouble, while paceman Neil Radford limped out of the attack with a thigh strain after taking two for 29, but Newport rose to the occasion.

The fast-medium bowler captured five for 62 as Sussex were

dismissed for 146, while Neale's sensible batting helped to consolidate. He hit a six and 10 fours.

Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence, the English-born son of West Indian parents, was involved in an angry outburst with a group of Yorkshire fans at Cheltenham.

Complaining at their racial taunts, Lawrence pointed at the group and shouted: "I'll see you all later."

Play stopped for a minute as a steward, followed by police, warned the group of drinkers they would be ejected unless they kept quiet.

West Indian cricketers, including Viv Richards, have been subjected to racial abuse at Yorkshire grounds.

Scores

At Weston-Super-Mare: Derbyshire 324 for eight (R. Sharma 80, B.

Roberts 62, A. Warner 45 not out) v Somerset.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire 235 in 107.1 overs (M. Watkinson 50, M. Atherton 42, R. Fraser four for 37), Middlesex 48 for three off 17.4 overs.

At Cheltenham: Yorkshire 367 for eight declared in 100.4 overs (D. Byas 112, P. Carrick 81, R. Blakey 40, T. Alderman three for 52), Gloucestershire 21 for no wicket off seven overs.

At Swansea: Surrey 293 for eight (D. Ward 126, K. Medleycott 43) v Glamorgan.

At Kidderminster: Sussex 146 in 47.3 overs (I. Gould 60, P. Newport four for 59 overs (P. Neale 66 not out, M. Weston 42 not out)).

At Leicester: Leicestershire 298 in 100.3 overs (P. Willey 98, S. Jefferies five for 126), Hampshire 10 for one off six overs.

At Edgbaston: Northamptonshire 261 in 89.3 overs (M. Gouldstone 50, W. Larkins 49, A. Walker 40 not out, A. Merrick four for 85, D. Reeve three for 55), Warwickshire 78 for no wicket (A. Lloyd 44 not out).

Monaco close gap at top

PARIS, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — Sochaux and Toulon narrowly staved off defeat to stay on top of the French First Division soccer ladder after tough draws away from home, but League giant Monaco notched up a win to close the gap.

Sochaux, unexpected early stars of the season with three wins in five games, drew 2-2 with lower Lens. It was their most difficult struggle to date, against a 10-man team after Polish player Cesar Tobollik was expelled at half-time.

Fabrice Henry kicked two goals in the first half, but one went against his team to Lens, whose Malabar Arsene put the home players ahead in the second half until Thierry Laurey saved the day for Sochaux in the 76th minute.

Sochaux remains on top of the table on goals.

Monaco inflicted an eleventh hour 1-0 defeat on the as yet unbeaten Paris Saint Germain to slip up to second position on the table.

Leaving

While dominating the match from the start, champions Monaco were beaten back by a strong defence, leaving Manuel Amoros to score the winning goal only in the 90th minute.

Toulon, who drew 1-1 with fourth-placed Bordeaux, slipped to third place after a difficult battle and are only one point ahead on the table.

Results

2	Sochaux	2
1	Toulon	0
1	Paris SG	0
3	Auxerre	2
3	Lille	1
3	Toulouse	1
3	Nice	2
0	Montpellier	1
0	Strasbourg	1
1	Saint-Etienne	1

Leicestershire warn Gattling

LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — Mike Gattling, the Middlesex and former England captain, has been warned to "back off" by Leicestershire following claims that he made an approach to their Test fast bowler Phillip DeFreitas.

Gattling allegedly spoke to DeFreitas after he had been dropped by his county two weeks ago for "not trying" in a championship match.

"Gattling was just warned to back off," said Leicestershire manager Mike Turner. "The matter is now closed. We are not going to take it any further."

Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said the TCCB had received no official complaint. "Unless it does, there is no question of the board being involved," he added.

Olympics will be trouble-free, say students and dissidents

SEOUL, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — South Korean radicals will not interfere with the success of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games in September but are concerned about their fate once the "Olympic family" goes home, students and dissidents in the city said.

"I think students will just stop protesting during the Olympic Games," said a graduate student at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. "Afterwards, who knows what will happen."

Agree

"Maybe there will still be demos within the university campuses, but people who agree with them now will change their minds when the Olympics come," she said. Either way, she and her fellow students did not think demonstrations would hinder the Games.

"The security is too tight," said a student at Korea University. "Demonstrators will keep to the campuses because with the new laws, they'll be arrested if they go outside."

Demonstrations are a fact of city life in South Korea. They target a wide range of issues, most recently the reunification of South and North Korea, divided after World War Two, the withdrawal of US troops from the peninsula and the co-hosting of the Olympics by the communist

North.

Contrary to current world opinion, demos are not the chaotic dogfights they appear to be on television.

They are well-orchestrated events, carefully confined to small areas of the city and rarely attended by anyone other than students, riot police, journalists and the unfortunates who own homes or shops in the area.

Their discipline, difficult to understand from a Western perspective, was shown recently when rioters suspended throwing rocks and petrol bombs while firefighters put out a blaze that had accidentally erupted at a bank building nearby.

That same discipline will control violent demonstrators during the Olympic games, students and dissidents said.

"We've got to do the Games well," said one taxi driver, with a glint of determination that is reflected in more and more South Korean eyes as the Olympics draw near.

Accordingly, support for violent student activities is waning.

Most South Koreans agree that the Olympics are a good thing. If we propagandise successfully, they will agree with us that the Games are bad," said a dissident who asked not to be identified.

The dissident, a student leader during former President Chun Doo Hwan's Fifth Republic whose college years were inter-



'Scrap the truce and sign peace pact' says a banner calling for talks between South and North Korea in a recent street demonstration staged by students and dissidents. (Reuter wirephoto)

persed with stints in prison, now works with one of the most powerful dissident groups in South Korea.

He said professional activists had agreed on a three-part plan for winning public support in the period before and during the Olympics.

The first part would culminate in a student meeting on August

15 at Pannunjom and include rallies focused on reunification and exposing alleged abuses of power by Chun and his wife, Lee Soon-Ja, who has been accused of shady financial deals and who is widely disliked in all sectors of society.

"If we expose the Fifth Republic the people will be angry. If we gather the people's

anger we've got a great following for reunification," he said.

If co-hosting of the Olympics is not realised by mid-August, dissident groups hope to shift the focus to the Games themselves and stage mass rallies by a unified front to include the four major anti-government movements: the students, the Catholics, the Protestants and professional



Karolyi (right) with his wife near the gymnasium where he coaches.

Five Karolyi pupils on US Olympic team

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — Former Romanian gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi watched as five of his pupils qualified for the US Olympic team last night.

Karolyi, who coached Mary Lou Retton to an Olympic gold medal for the United States in 1984 and Romania's Nadia Comaneci to the first perfect 10 in Olympic history in 1976, had three students finish among the top six and two as alternates to the US squad headed for Seoul next month.

Fulfilled

"I am so happy now," said an emotional Karolyi, who defected to the United States in 1981. "My obligation has been fulfilled. My athletes were well prepared and did their best."

"I have been 25 years in the high-competitive arena and this is one of my greatest moments," said Karolyi, 46.

Phoebe Mills, 15, won the all-around title with a score of 78.572 as she captivated the crowd with 9.9s in floor exercise, vault and uneven bars, and a 9.8 on balance beam.

"I proved that I can go out under pressure and hit my events," Mills said. "That's what you need at the Olympics. This feels great."

Clear

Though one of the coaches may still step aside to open a spot for Karolyi, it appeared clear that it would not be Olympic head coach Don Peters.

"I am the head coach and I have absolutely no intentions of resigning in favour of Bela," Peters said.

Argentina ban Pumas from South Africa tour

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 7. (Reuter) — The Argentine Rugby Union (UAR) has banned a group of Pumas from joining a World XV Tour of South Africa later this month.

UAR president Carlos Tozzi said yesterday the union had told the South African Rugby Board it would not permit the players to join the controversial tour.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday night it could not prevent individuals from travelling to South Africa but if they did so "it will be on their conscience."

Argentina broke off diplomatic relations with South Africa in May 1986.

Tozzi said: "The (matter) goes beyond the sporting arena... it could jeopardise the participation of Argentina in other disciplines at the Seoul Olympics."

Argentina is sending a team of about 130 to the Olympic Games in South Korea next month.

UAR secretary Hugo Tucci said on Thursday that South Africa had invited seven Pumas to join the tour.

Among those invited was Jorge Allen, the flanker who took over the Pumas' captaincy this year from the legendary Hugo Porta.

Tucci said Porta, who will be 37 in September, was not among those invited through the UAR.

But a source close to Porta said the veteran fly half, a popular figure in South Africa for years, received a direct invitation from the South Africans.

Porta turned it down partly because he was worried the world XV might be too weak for the South African Springboks, the source said.

But he could accept an invitation for another world tour of South Africa next year, he added.

Earlier yesterday, six members of the world XV, one Australian, one from Hawaii and four Tongans, arrived in South Africa despite the doubt whether the seven-match series would take place.

The four British rugby unions and the New Zealand union have banned or discouraged their players from joining the tour, which is due to open next Saturday.

Italians row to three world titles

MILAN, Italy, Aug. 7. (AP) — Italy won three titles in yesterday's lightweight finals of the World Rowing Championships for juniors and lightweight, while an 18-year-old woman took a gold medal for the United States.

The Americans also captured a silver medal in the prestigious men's eight with cox but failed to retain the title in the women's coxless four.

The American quartet finished fourth in a race that was enlivened by the first-ever victory by a Chinese team in the championships.

Lake

The medal won by Kris Karlson was the only gold for the US rowers in the seven finals at Milan's Idroscalo artificial lake.

West Germany and the Netherlands won one title each in the lightweight category, which the powerful Eastern European teams did not enter.

East Germany and the Soviet Union were expected to dominate most of the 14 finals of the junior category scheduled for this evening, the conclusion of the five-day competition.

Karlson won the world title in the women's skiff, resisting a strong comeback by West Germany's Angela Schuster, who made it to runner-up after lagging fourth at the halfway point.

SPORTS

Egypt sacks coach after Cup defeat

CAIRO, Aug 7. (Reuters). Egypt, reeling under a string of humiliating soccer setbacks, has dismissed its national coach for the second time this year, football federation chairman Ibrahim Al Goweini said today.

"We have decided to thank captain (Fouad) Sedki for his services up to August 6," Goweini told Reuters. The decision was taken after a five-hour debate on the future of Egyptian soccer.

Egypt came only third in the fifth Arab Cup tournament in Amman last month following a 4-3 defeat by Syria in a penalty shootout. It was the latest in a series of losses which have caused anguish to local fans over the past 12 months.

Goweini said the federation was now considering a replacement for Sedki. He did not rule out the possibility of bringing in a foreign coach.

Possible
The evening newspaper Al Massa reported that the federation might contact soccer authorities in the Soviet Union, East Germany and Yugoslavia about a possible candidate.

Sedki, a former international, became coach in April in place of Mike Smith, a Briton who was fired after Egypt, the defending champions, were eliminated in the first round of the African Nations' Cup final in Morocco.

A humiliating home defeat by Tunisia last year cost Egypt a place at this year's summer Olympic Games in Seoul.

The country's highest sports organisation dissolved the football federation in May and appointed a new one headed by Goweini. He was ordered to draft a plan to raise standard of the national team.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Annual match

LONDON, Aug 7. (Reuters). Hooliganism threatens to strike the annual England-Scotland match off the international soccer calendar. The teams have played regularly since 1884 but a meeting between the English and Scottish soccer authorities may decide to scrap the encounter.

Yacht race

HONOLULU, Aug 7. (Reuters). An international yacht race that will start at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, and end in Hiroshima, Japan, is set for next year, a race organiser said yesterday. The 43rd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the United States.

Barcelona captain

ARNHEM, Holland, Aug 7. (UPI). Alexanco Ventosa, captain of Spanish Soccer League club Barcelona, will appear before a public prosecutor tomorrow on charges of rape, but he has denied the accusation, his lawyer said.

US Open

MEDINAH, Illinois, Aug 7. (AP). Bob Charles shot a 70 and defending champion Gary Player had a 71, two of only five sub-par rounds yesterday, to share the third-round lead at the US Senior Open.

Overall lead

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Aug 7. (AP). Phil Anderson of Australia held the overall lead after the fifth stage of the six-day Tour of Denmark professional cycling race yesterday.

Independence Cup

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug 7. (AP). Australia's junior team defeated Indonesia's B team 1-0 while China held Indonesia A to a 1-1 score today, the second day of the Independence Cup soccer tournament.

Norway Cup

OSLO, Norway, Aug 7. (AP). Brazilian team Pequenos do Jockey of Sao Paulo beat Mjondalen of Norway 2-0 (1-0) in the finals yesterday in the class for boys aged 17 in Norway Cup, the world's largest youth soccer tournament involving 20,000 boys and girls representing 1,100 clubs in 19 countries.

Sri Lanka score

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 7. (Reuters). Scores on the second day of the three-day cricket match between Nottinghamshire and Sri Lanka at Trent Bridge today.

Sri Lanka first innings 307 for seven declared (B. Kuruppu 158, R. Madugalle 72).

Nottinghamshire 250 for five declared. (C. Broad 73).

BRAZILIAN ACE REPLACES PROST AS CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER

Senna speeds to victory in Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST, Aug 7. (Reuters). Brazilian Ayrton Senna replaced his McLaren team-mate Alain Prost as leader in the World Drivers' Championship today when he held off a determined challenge by the Frenchman to win the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Senna, driving with great confidence, finished the physically demanding 76-lap race on the twisting Hungaroring circuit just half a second ahead of Prost after nearly two hours of close competition in hot sunshine.

Compared
His victory hoisted him level with Prost in the battle for the drivers' title on 66 points after 10 of the season's 16 races, but the Brazilian leads because he has won six times compared to Prost's four. It was Senna's 12th career win and his fifth success in the last six races.

Senna, starting from pole position, led for virtually the entire race, allowing Prost only a fleeting taste of the lead on the 49th lap when he was out-braked as they lapped Italian Gabriele Tarquini's Coloni at the end of the straight.

Prost passed Senna and led for a few seconds but could not hold his line and the Brazilian, hungry for his first world title, retaliated immediately by regaining the lead.

Prost, world champion in 1985



Prost (left) almost disappears behind a champagne shower given by Senna (centre) while Boutsen gets ready to open his bottle. (Reuters wirephoto)

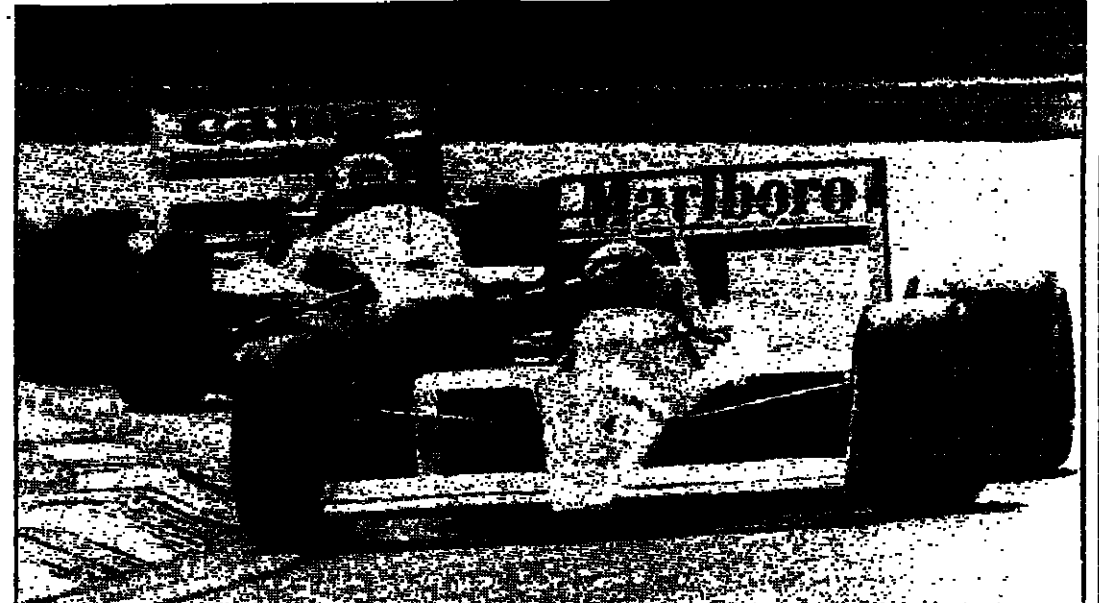
and 1986, and first in the standings throughout this season, said: "I pushed a bit too hard at the wrong time. I was a little bit too quick and it was a very close moment for us both."

Senna said: "I held my breath thinking that we might both end up going off, but I gave him a bit of room as he came by me. I managed to re-pass him immediately but it was a hard race all the way to the finish."

Prost, who had started from seventh place on the grid, continued to press hard but Senna did not permit him a second opening as he drove on to a narrow and dramatic victory.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen, whose Benetton suffered a broken exhaust pipe 15 laps from the end, led the normally-aspirated cars in to finish third and Austrian Gerhard Berger was fourth in a Ferrari.

Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin was fifth in a march ahead of Italian Riccardo Patrese's Williams. But the expected nor-



Senna leading Mansell at the start of the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

mally-aspirated challenge for victory was blown away again by the Honda turbo powered McLaren duo.

It was the McLaren team's 10th successive win and the seventh time they have finished first and second this year.

Senna said he now felt more optimistic about the world championship but admitted the race had been a strain. "Alain made me work as hard as I have

all season," he said. Prost said he had lost the race in qualifying because it was so difficult to overtake cars on the twisting circuit.

World champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil, driving a Lotus, was unable to raise any hopes of a hat-trick of Hungarian wins following his victories with Williams in the last two years. He clashed with a Minardi on the ninth lap and damaged his wheels. Despite

a pit stop, he never fully recovered, but finished eighth.

Briton Nigel Mansell, who started alongside Senna on the front row, held second place until he spun his Williams on the 12th lap and then suffered from an engine misfire.

He retired at the end of the 60th lap, admitting he was too exhausted to continue after feeling ill through chicken pox for more than a week.

Coe faces Olympic knock-out

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 7. (Reuters). Olympic champion Sebastian Coe appeared to have lost all hope of defending his 1,500 metres title in Seoul next month when he was eliminated in the heats at the British Olympic trials yesterday.

Coe, the only man to win two Olympic 1,500-metre gold medals, struggled to fourth place in his heat and failed to qualify for today's final, shredding his dreams of a third Olympic title.

Heart

With the first two in each final earmarked for Seoul, only a major change of heart by the British Amateur Athletics Board could rescue the 31-year-old middle-distance star.

The selectors have the power to award 'discretionary' third spots in the squad, but Coe's claims looked slim after yesterday's dismal showing.

Former world champion Steve Cram, who skipped the 1,500 metre trial, appeared assured of the third slot at that distance and a shot at an Olympic double after

a majestic victory in the 800 metres earlier in the day.

Coe's chance of claiming the third 800 metres place alongside Cram and Tom McKean looked equally remote, with world champion silver medalist Peter Elliott vying for the honour and winning his 1,500 metres heat in convincing style.

Coe, who was unhappy at having to run in the trials at all, could clock only a modest three minutes 45.01 seconds — some 15 seconds outside his best time.

"There was nothing there. Everything has been going well in training, but when I tried to respond at 1100 metres I had nothing to offer," Coe, whose season has been interrupted by injury, said.

There was a touch of irony in his failure when, in the next heat, old rival Steve Ovett produced just the sort of finishing burst Coe lacked.

Ovett had had a miserable season, but this time he was waving and blowing kisses to the crowd in his old style as he won

his heat in 3:43.98.

"I was really pleased with that. It's beginning to come back, although it was still only a heat," Ovett, who beat Coe for the 1980 Olympic 800 metres title in Moscow, said.

Elliott had no sympathy for Coe. "I can't feel sorry for Seb. It's a competitive business and no one would feel sorry for me if I went out. Obviously this gives me a better chance than Seb of getting the last 800 metres place," he said.

Four years ago Elliott beat Coe in the national 1,500 metres final, but the selectors still chose Coe, who justified their faith by retaining his Olympic crown in Los Angeles.

Accelerated

In the 800 metres, which Coe and Elliott both missed, Cram accelerated magnificently off the final bend to overhauled leading rival McKean and secure a handsome victory in one minute 44.16 seconds — the third fastest time in the world this year.

In Seoul, Cram will be seeking

to become the first athlete since New Zealanders Peter Snell in Tokyo 24 years ago to win both the 800 and 1,500 metres.

"It's a tough programme — seven races in nine days — and you've got to be in great shape to attempt it, but my form at 800 metres is enough to encourage me that 1,500 will be as well," said Cram.

"I have been trying to build up gradually throughout the season, and I always said I would be prepared when it came to the crunch," said Cram. "There are not many people who have run this fast this season, and there's certainly nobody head or shoulders above anyone else. The way things are at the moment, I can cope with the heavy programme of doing the double."

The last time Cram attempted a similar feat was at the 1986 European Championships in Stuttgart where he won 800 metres bronze and 1,500 metres gold. A few weeks earlier he won both golds in Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Superpower takes Phoenix Stakes

DUBLIN, Aug 7. (Reuters). Walter Swinburn's disappointment when intended mount Dancing Dissident went lame and was withdrawn turned to joy as he partnered Bill O'Gorman's Superpower to victory in the Phoenix Stakes today.

Bouncing out of the stalls and soon a couple of lengths clear, the 6-1 chance kept up a relentless gallop on the rails to give Swinburn a dream success on his first ride in Ireland's richest juvenile contest, a group one race for two-year-olds.

Swinburn gained the chance of the ride when jockey Tony Ives was injured.

India hold Pakistan to draw in fourth Test

LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug 7. (Reuters). A penalty six minutes from time helped India draw 1-1 with Pakistan in the fourth Test today.

Olympic champions Pakistan, trailing the six-match series 2-1, took a first half lead when Qazi Mohib converted a penalty stroke in the 32nd minute. It was awarded because Ashok Kumar had pulled down Mohib's goal-bound shot from above his head.

But Surjit Kumar levelled with his spot shot after M.P. Singh had caught Mohib's foot on the goal-line with a stinging shot.

Feroze initiated a neat move in the ninth minute and gave a good pass to Tariq Sheikh but Indian goalkeeper Mark Patterson

brought off a good save.

Playing on slow and heavy National Stadium artificial turf, India settled down quickly and forced a penalty corner in the 14th minute. But right-back Ashok Kumar shot wide.

India's right wing Gundeep Kumar received a nasty cut on his forehead after he was struck by left-half Naeem Akhtar.

Changes

Pakistan were without their regular inside-left Zahid Sharif and played Khalid Hamid and Wasim Feroze on the left flank. India made three changes, resting goalkeeper Rajinder Singh Rawat, skipper and right-half M.M. Somaya and centre-forward Balwinder Singh.

Three tie for top honours at Pat Bradley tourney

HIGH POINT, N.C., Aug 7. (Reuters). Tournament namesake Pat Bradley birdied five holes and made no bogeys to tie Dorothy Germain and Jody Rosenthal as third-day winners with 15 points each yesterday.

The three will split \$15,000 in prize money for coming up with the highest totals under the unusual scoring system being used at this year's Pat Bradley International women's golf tournament.

Eagle

Players are awarded eight points for double eagles, five for an eagle and three for a birdie. No points are awarded for a par, while one point is subtracted for a bogey. A player loses three points for a double bogey or worse.

Bradley birdied four holes on the front nine, then added her fifth on the 16th hole for her 15

points. "This has been a different week for me," said Bradley. "There has been a lot of pressure on me, but in a way I think this has helped me."

Germain, a local favourite, made six birdies but lost three points on bogeys.

"I started the round with a birdie," said Germain. "All week, I have not made a birdie until the back. That is the difference in today and my previous rounds."

Rosenthal also posted six birdies and three bogeys.

Gardner closes gap on Lawson

DONINGTON PARK, England, Aug 7. (Reuters). Wayne Rainey of the United States won the British Motorcycle Grand Prix here today — his first 500cc World Championship success in his debut season.

The Californian led from the first corner of the Yamaha and was never seriously threatened.

World champion Wayne Gardner of Australia was second on a Honda, nearly seven seconds adrift. But he closed the gap on championship leader Eddie Lawson of the United States who was sixth on a Yamaha.

Gardner, who may have been closer to the winner but for a mistake in the first half of the race which cost him several seconds,

collected 17 points, seven more than Lawson.

The American is now 20 points ahead of Gardner with four races left. Rainey remained third overall, 12 behind the Australian.

Feeling

Third place in the race went to Christian Sarron, the Yamaha-mounted Frenchman, with Briton Niall Mackenzie fourth on a Honda.

Rainey, former US superbike champion said: "I've waited a long time for this and it's a fantastic feeling. I hope it's the first win of many."

The American also said his bike and tyres performed super-

bly. "My tyres played a major part — the harder I pushed the harder they stuck. My bike didn't miss a beat. I was just sitting on top of it while it did the work for me."

Gardner had a rather different race, suffering from a buckled front brake disc and worn components. "I had brake problems from the beginning which forced me to back off," he said. "Every time I turned the power on I was snaking all over the place."

"Naturally I would have liked to have won but I'm pleased I caught some points up on Eddie. The title race is still open — I have just got to keep the pressure on, hoping he will crack."

Johnson recovers from poor start to win 100m

OTTAWA, Aug 7. (UPI). World record-holder Ben Johnson recovered quickly from a poor start to clock a wind-aided 9.90 seconds in the 100 metres yesterday at the Canadian Track and Field Championships.

Johnson finished at least one metre ahead of a strong field, which included Desai Williams finishing in 10.0 and Atlee Mahorn third in 10.20. Officials calculated wind to be 3.70 metres per second, slightly more than the legal limit of 2.0 metres per second.

Wanted

"I almost fell out of the blocks. The pads are so small I couldn't push off the way I wanted to," said Johnson, whose trademark explosive start propelled him to a world record 9.83 in the 100 at the World Track and Field Championships in Rome last August.

The meet, watched by an estimated 2,000 spectators despite extreme humidity and temperatures near the 90 degree mark, will determine Canada's team for the Summer Olympics in Seoul.

Johnson's personal coach,

Charlie Francis, described the race as "a little rough" and dismissed the wind as a factor.

"I thought it was a cross wind. (Ben) looks to be on target to me," said Francis.

Carl Lewis ran a wind-aided 9.78, the fastest time under any conditions over 100 metres, last month in Indianapolis, but Francis said the wind of 5.2 metres per second would push the time closer to 9.98.

Johnson, who asked for a police escort for protection while attending the meet, said he felt no pain from a hamstring muscle injury suffered on May 13 during a meet in Tokyo. He was treated with low voltage muscle stimulation before the race.

Johnson will next compete in a relay meet on Aug 13 in Bologna, Italy before racing in prominent European meets in Zurich, Switzerland, Cologne, West Germany and Berlin.

A pre-Olympic matchup with Lewis could take place in Zurich or Cologne and the two rivals are also planning a more elaborate race in Japan after the Olympics, Johnson said.

Johnson insisted he wasn't



Johnson crosses the finish line to win the 100 metres race. (Reuters wirephoto)

even thinking about Lewis during yesterday's race.

"My main goal is to get back into form," Johnson said. "My number one concern is to win the gold medal. Carl is going to be there. He says he's going to be the

man to beat. We will see."

Canadian sprint champion Angela Issajenko won the women's 100 metres final in 11.01 and she had a few choice words for her American rival, Florence Griffith-Joyner,

declaring: "I don't think any woman can run 10.49."

Griffith-Joyner's world record, established on July 16 in Indianapolis, was accepted by US Olympic officials, but some critics say wind gauges failed to detect a strong tail wind.

Issajenko, who has a personal best of 10.97 in the event and will also compete in the 4 x 100-metre relay in Seoul, said she was angry that Griffith-Joyner's time was accepted as official.

"There's not a woman on this planet who can run 10.4," Issajenko said. "That would mean we would have to start running with Ben (Johnson)."

Issajenko also said Canada may have to forfeit a relay medal in the Summer Olympics because women on the 4 x 100 team were refusing to train together. Canada won a silver medal in the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

"Everyone has good egos. Nobody wants to get together to work on it," she said.

In other highlights, Mark McKoy won the men's 110-metre hurdles in 13.25 and Simon Hoogwerf captured the men's 800 metres in 1:46.99.



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